



Sexual Abuse of Children and Adolescents - "Without Words"

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[transcript of PowerPoint Presentation]

Definition

- Deliberate sexual acts with, on or in front of children
Children < 14 years old (according to German legislation)
EUC of Justice 2003 sexual age of consent from age 14 dependent on culture
- Disparity of wishes
Also "voluntary" (simple vs. informed consent) sexual acts between
children & adults liable to prosecution - "incontemporaneity"
- Liable to prosecution according to § 176 StGB [German Penal Code]
Imprisonment of between 6 months and 10 years (5 years or fines)

Figures

- German Police Crime Statistics
In 2007, 12,772 cases of sexual abuse of children reported,
106 of these were serious cases
- Estimates up to the age of 18 1X or over a period of several years
one in three or four girls and one in seven or ten boys victims of sexual abuse
- Study published by 'The Lancet' in London
In industrial nations, one child in ten victim of abuse
- 30 – 40 suicide attempts by children and 150 child suicides annually
- www: globally > than 500 billion euros (D > 1 billion) generated
through child pornographic videos and prints of children every year
Abuse of children following instruction in front of cameras

Types

Without physical contact, e.g. watching porno films.

- With physical contact, e.g. mutual touching.
- Non-penetrative, e.g. mutual touching of sexual organs.
- With penetrative contact.
- With sexual deviation, e.g. sadism.
- Ritualised abuse

Typical locations

- School
- Kindergarten
- Sports clubs
- Within the family

Offender typology

- In the majority of cases a man 85 – 90%
- Large number of undetected crimes by women
boys increasingly report incidents
- All social levels and all ages
e.g. mutual touching of sexual organs.



- Offenders mostly from social environment of children (stepfather, friend, mother, uncle, grandfather, father, neighbor, teacher. or kindergarten teacher)
- 90% substitute object culprits; 2 – 10% paedophiles, fixated types; individual sadistic types (suppression)
- Victim-to-victimiser cycle over several generations

Warning signals

- Sudden changes in behaviour
- Sudden fear of adults or bathrooms
- Lack of contacts & friendships
- Observable state of anxiety
- Sudden development of problems at school/concentration difficulties
- Sleep problems (nightmares, daydreams, slipping into fantasy world)
- Bedwetting
- Speechlessness
- Stomach ache, etc.
- Unwillingness to undress
- Inappropriate sexual games for age-group /sexualised behaviour
- Typical drawings by small children
- Cage with dead birds lying in their own blood

Signs within pre-school age group

- Effects dependent on accompanying circumstances
- and other developmental risk factors (neglect, physical abuse)
- Uninhibited, libidinous behaviour in small children
- unusual active interest in their own genitals and those of others
- Social und intimate lack of distance towards strange persons
- Inappropriate sexual activity for age-group with peers
- Excessive masturbation
- Playful imitation & reproduction of the act
- Exhibitionism and sexually provocative manner
- higher risk of becoming repeat victim

Additional signs from school-age children

- Resistance & anxiety in sexual development
- Functional sexual disorders
- Promiscuity
- Sexually aggressive behaviour towards other children
- Neglect of personal hygiene
- Disturbed role of gender identity
- Pronounced fear of being homosexual

Additional signs in teenagers

- Sexualised behaviour, sometimes going as far as prostitution
- Loud music
- Obesity
- Self-harm
- Perverse anxiety
- OH & drug dependency



- Dissociative phenomena
- Additional signs in teenagers

Frequent resulting disorders

- Post-traumatic stress disorders
- Dissociative identity disorders
- Eating disorders
- Borderline personality disorders
- Partial forgetting - amnesia

Therapy

Treatment can only be begun when a child is no longer in danger of being abused.

- Obligatory: culprit and victim must be separated.
- Culprit is forbidden to contact child.
- Psychotherapy: trauma therapy & intensive psychotherapy
- also with the involvement of an attachment figure
- Dissociative identity disorders
- Eating disorders
- Borderline personality disorders
- Partial forgetting - amnesia

Procedure in suspected cases

- If teacher discovers bruises during swimming lessons.
- What should be done? Say nothing in case the accusation is unjustified or formulate suspicion with the risk that it is unfounded?
- Survey involving 2000 boys: one in four indicated that he had already been addressed within a sexual context.
- On no account immediately confront child with suspicion.
- The first step should be consultation with school administration and appropriate specialists:
 - doctors, lawyers, organisations such as Wildwasser or Weißer Ring, advisory services for girls, youth welfare services, in Munich: Haunersches Children's Hospital.
- The burden of proof lies with the victims; police are essential to establish proof of criminal action and high quality of identifying traces of criminal act and situation.

Procedure in cases of suspected abuse for teachers & parents I

- Treat the statements of your child seriously (7 attempts).
- Never believe that children could enjoy sexual abuse.
- Assure the child that it should not harbour feelings of guilt & that no-one should behave in this manner with him/her. No accusations.
- • Communicate to the child that he/she can talk about these experiences, but do not force them to do so. ("good and bad touching")
- Decide on initial protective steps: picking child up from school,
- Change to different sports club.
- Protection = education: speak openly with children.
- Encourage children to trust their own perceptions.

Procedure in cases of suspected abuse for teachers & parents II

- Saying "no" is possible. Protect child from border violations (kissing by relatives)



- In suspected cases – seek help from local counselling services.
- Do not undertake over-hasty action, e.g. bringing of charges.
- • Answers & addresses of counselling services: www.hinsehen-handeln-helfen.de
- A child feels protected if it is believed.
- If it receives help in dealing with the experiences, it is given the chance
- of processing these experiences.
- Make clear statements to the child: you were very brave –
- the culprit has made a big mistake.

Prevention at school

- Set up a contact point for victims.
- Provide concrete contact partner for children involved.
- Provide permanently available contact partner for victims
- of abuse both at school and within the family.
- Persons in a position of trust – specially trained teachers, school psychologists;
- therapists should provide preventative and explanatory advice and help.
- www.lehrerakademie.de
- Pursue each individual suspected case (also those in the past)
- with the aid of an independent council.

Prevention topics at school

- Always inform of any cases.
- Utilise safety rule of trust.
- Say no, run away and tell.
- Trust my feelings.
- Speak to adults about my problems and fears.
- Practise emergency situations (loud screaming)
- Games and exercises ("Safety islands on the way to school", "Storytelling game", "Letting off steam", "I shout NO out loud" and "Quiet and noisy NOs" ,...)
- www.lehrerakademie.de

Case study 1: abuse

- Case record: Two sisters (7 and 10), mutism (ICD-10 F94.0),
Motivation for treatment: starting school/changing school
- Therapy setting in the child and adolescent psychiatric clinic
Jana (6.) day-clinic, Tina (9 J.) inpatient in paediatric ward, family therapy, home visits by therapist
- Results and measures
Taken into care, alerting of youth welfare services, notification to police authorities

Case study 2: abuse/maltreatment

- Case record: 5-year-old girl, swollen black eye, striped haematoma
- Therapy setting in the paediatric clinic:
admitted as inpatient, formation of team and allocation of tasks
(diagnostic documentation)
- Examination results and measures
Taken into care, notification to police authorities and helper conference
with welfare services.
- Further procedures and suitable measures
Family helper, play therapy, new custody provisions



Website: www.hinsehen-handeln-helfen.de

Johann-Wolfgang von Goethe: There are two things children should receive from their parents: roots and wings.

Contact

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Child protection

- Deutscher Kinderschutzbund (DKSB) [German Child Protection Alliance]
federal association Bavaria: www.childerschutzbund-bayern.de
"Hilfe statt Strafe" ["Help not Punishment"], favours family-oriented approaches: all family members should receive help-based offer of therapy. "Strong parents – strong children".
- Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Kinderschutzzentren (BAG) [National Working Association of Child Protection Centres]: www.childerschutz-zentren.org
Violent excesses of parents against their children a sign of excessive strain: core services include family counselling and therapy, individual, pair and group therapy, child therapy, children's residential group following mandatory agreement on the part of parents.
- Bayerisches Landesjugendamt (BLJA) [Bavarian Federal Youth Welfare Services]:
www.blja.bayern.de Child-centred approach in plans for help based on KJHG & SGB VIII Child Protection
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Frauen- und Kinderschutzhäuser [Association of German Shelters for Women and Children]: Emergency centres, shelter for women, self-help group "Wildwasser", no cooperation with the perpetrator
- Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Children- und Jugendschutz e.V. [National Working Association for the Protection of Children and Adolescents]
- Bundesverein zur Prävention von sexuellem Missbrauch an Jungen & Mädchen e.V. [National Association for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Boys and Girls]
- Bavarian Police Force: police representative for women and children