Adolescent Offenders with Sexual Behavior Problems

Anna C. Salter, Ph.D.

Impact of Sexual Abuse on Children and Adults•

Silence

Freezing

When you can’t fight and you can’t get away,

you freeze.

“But I never had that thought as a child to tell. I just (pause) I don’t know how or why the fear was there but I, I didn’t know I could tell because we weren’t allowed to talk about anything.”

(Alaggia, 2010)

Latency to Disclose

3 to 18 years

(Allagia, 2010)

Delayed Disclosure of Childhood Rape

N = 388

- W/in 24 hours 18%
- > 5 years 47%
- Never before survey 28%

(Smith et al., 2000)

Delay in Disclosure

% who wait more than 5 years
58%

% who never disclosed
20%

(Hebert, Tourigny, Cyr, et al., 2009)

Gender

- Boys more reluctant to disclose

(Ghetti & Goodman, 2001; Goodman-Brown et al., 2003; Hershkowitz et al., 2005; Kendall et al., 1993; Levesque, 1994; London et al., 2005; Sas & Cunningham, 1995; Sauzier, 1989; Widom & Morris, 1997)

Prior Disclosure

Children who have told somebody
Prior to the official interview

More likely to disclose

(Olafson & Lederman, 2006)

Disclosure During Investigative Interviews

N = 251

	Investigative Interviews
Prior Disclosure	86%
No Prior Disclosure	18%

(Keary & Fitzpatrick, 1994)

ABUSE AS PRESSURE COOKER

Consistency in Interviews

Nonabused Children

Ages 3 – 6

Known event

2 recall occasions

Overlap of details 20%

(Fivush, 1994)

Age

- Adolescents abused for the first time as adolescents more likely to disclose than younger children

- Disclose first to another adolescent

(Olafson & Lederman, 2006)

Why Don’t Children Tell?

Response of 4 Year Old Molested by Foster Child

Said to mom:

“I didn’t tell them anything – I don’ t know them.”

Adolescent Offenders with Sexual Behavior Problems

Anna C. Salter, Ph.D.

- A. “We weighed it up and made sure that each unit weighed a kilo and did a general purity test on it.
- Q. How do you do a general purity test?
- A. Well, we snorted a bunch of it.”

Court: “You were picked up on a new 245?”

Defendant: “I don’t know if it was a 245, 645, 345. They picked me up on something, all right? Okay? Then when they also had me on that, he gave me a motherfucking charge for prostitution.”

Counsel: “Don’t use language like that to the judge.”

Defendant: Prostitution? What? Prostitution? What do you want me to say? They picked me up for prostitution.”

Empathy

"Whenever I watch TV and see those poor starving kids all over the world, I can't help but cry. I mean, I'd love to be skinny like that, but not with all those flies and death, and stuff".

Mariah Carey

“I wouldn’t have told you anything if I hadn’t trusted you.”

(Alaggia, 2010)

“I just don’t trust people or trust that people will respect it. They look down upon me or think there is something wrong or they won’t believe it. There are all kinds of reasons. People just don’t want to hear about it.”

(Alaggia, 2010)

“Now when I get older it is the fear of telling because I am being blamed, well you should have done it then, maybe you don’t remember. How can you remember that many years ago?”

(Alaggia, 2010)

Threats of Violence

"I do have the reality that I have death threats from my family for talking about the abuse, and I do have the reality that I could be killed."

(Alaggia, 2010)

Batterers

4 to 9 times more likely to perpetrate incest – especially on girls

(Bancroft & Silverman, 2002)

Lack of Reality

“I had to deal with it for a long long time and I dunno . . . the more you leave it unsaid the more unbelievable it becomes”

(McElvaney, 2013. 16-year-old girl)

Close Relationships

- Less likely to disclose the closer the relationship

(DiPetro et al., 1997; Smith et al., 2000)

Disclosing Biological Fathers

- Biological father suspected 57%
- All categories of offenders 81%

(Pipe et al., 2007)

ABUSE AS PRESSURE COOKER

Disclosure As A Trauma

Disclosure Should Be a Good Thing

But it isn’t always for the child

Disclosure as Crisis

For

Victim

Non-offending mother

Impact of Disclosure

Disclosing children and adolescents

Greater psychological distress

Than those who didn't

(Feiring et al., 2002; O'Leary et al., 2010)

Impact of Disclosure

Disclosing adolescents

Felt less supported

Perceived others' reactions as negative

Blamed selves for abuse

(Feiring et al., 2002)

“I didn’t want to be responsible for them breaking up. Even though I wanted them to split up but not because of me”

(McElvaney, 2013, 15-year-old girl)

Childhood Disclosures

- Negative reactions to childhood disclosure lead to more problems in adulthood
- Disclosure not necessarily conducive to healing

(Smith et al., 2000)

“Me Dad was crying and I was crying like me Mam [*sic*] she went mad she did . . . and I was roaring crying like ’cos I could hear her screaming . . . “I’ll kill him I’ll kill him” like an’ trying to get out the door.

(McElvaney, 2013, 16-year-old girl)