Selection, Engagement and Seduction of Children and Adults by Child Molesters

Cory Jewell Jensen, M.S.
CBI Consulting, Inc.
Coryjjensen@gmail.com

Offender Relationship to Victim
Huot, 1999

- 1652 sex offenders
- 95% were child molesters.
- Majority of victims under 12 years old.

- Biological parent 16%
- Stepparent 14%
- Other relative 16%
- (Grand, uncle, sib)
- Friend of parent 26%
- Person in authority (clergy, teacher, coach) 22%
- Stranger 05%
- Other 01%

Research on Grooming 80’s to now

- How Sex Offenders ‘lure’ Children
  (Lang & Frenzel, 1988)
- What Sex Offenders Tell Us About
  Prevention Strategies
  (Conte, Wolf & Smith, 1989)
- Modus Operandi: Accuracy in self-reported use of threats and
  coercion. (Kaufman et al. 1993)
- Child Sexual Abuse Prevention: What Offenders Tell Us.
  (Elliot & Brown, et al., 1995)
- Child Sexual Abuse: Offender Characteristics and Modus
  Operandi (Smallbone & Wortley, 2001)
- A comparative study of demographic data related to intra
  – and extra-familial child sexual
  abusers and professional
  perpetrators. (Sullivan & Beech, 2004)
- Modus Operandi of Sexual
  Offenders Working or Doing
  Volunteer Work with Children and
  Adolescents (Leclerec, et al. 2009)
- Examining the modus operandi of sexual
  offenders against children
  and it’s practical implication
  (Leclerec, et al. 2009)

Legal Definitions

“Grooming is the process of cultivating trust with a
victim and gradually introducing sexual behaviors
until reaching the point where it is possible to
perpetrate a sexual crime against the victim.”
(Piercelfield v. State, 2007)

“...the process of eroding a victim’s boundaries to
physical touch and desensitizing them to sexual
issues.” (State v. Berosik, 2009)

Motivational VS Operational
Goals and Behaviors

- Pre-Offending Behavior
  - Public/family image
  - Engagement with child and family
  - Control and ongoing access
- Offending Behavior
  - Gradual desensitization and sexualization
- Post Offending Behavior
  - Denial, alignment, escape

- Place self in situation or relationship to have sexual
  contact with child/ren.
- Avoid disclosure, detection and reporting.
- Enhance sexual/intimate experience with victim.
- Enhance the “thrill of getting away with it.”
- Be able to pursue new victims

Selection, Engagement and Seduction of
Children and Adult by Child Molesters,
(Jewell Jensen, Jensen & Bailey, 2002)

- Why does grooming work?
  - Most adult don’t know what to look for.
  - Most adults don’t want to see it or believe it.
- How does grooming work?
  - By targeting specific children, families and
    communities to exploit.
  - Seducing the child/ren and adults.
  - Preparing for disclosure/confrontation
  - Learning from experience.
Selection, Engagement and Seduction of Children and Adults by Child Molesters

**FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit Offender Typology - Grooming**

- Identity potential target
  - Availability – Vulnerability – Desirability
- Gather information about needs and vulnerabilities
  - Via communication or interaction/observation with others
- Establish a connection
  - Access via relationship, activity, and/or organization (alienate or ingratiating caretakers)

**FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit Offender Typology - Grooming**

- Fill needs and vulnerabilities
  - Core grooming behaviors, influenced by offender’s skill and child’s reaction
- Lower inhibitions (the “pay off”)
  - Introduce sexualized talk, touch, play, nudity, porn, etc.
- Preserve the process
  - Prevent disclosure, repeat victimization, encourage victim compliancy/collaboration

**FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit Offender Typology - Grooming**

- Constellation of behaviors
- Offender supplies both emotional and tangible things, may try to fill “void” in victim’s life/situation.
  - Attention, recognition, affection, kindness, romance, intimidation
- Gifts, staples, drugs/alcohol, privileges, relax rules, allowing the forbidden, breaking down roles/boundaries that usually exist between children/adults, student/teacher, coach/player

**FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit Offender Typology - Grooming**

- Grooming is tailored to specific victims and families/agencies (via church – offender may portray self as extremely religious)
- Adolescent males
  - The 3 D’s - driving, drinking, dirty pictures
  - Boys and girls
  - Attention, affection, assets


- “Pedophiles must care for and befriend their young lovers. They are concerned for the wellbeing and pleasure of their little friends, always putting the juvenile’s pleasure and happiness first.”
- “When Pedophiles interact with children, they do so through their own inner child and enter into an equality of personhood with their young friend.”
- Some children are innately attracted to pedo/juviphilies.
- Recommend teen magazines for “handsome, fresh faces” and latex finger coits for little penises.
### Kentucky State Journal Social Media Post (2/10/16)

"Addressing the issue underlying this news report, scientific studies based on legitimate empirical research do not support the mass hysteria and moral panic that currently surrounds all sexually expressed child/older person relationships, which are invariably cast as "child molestation/child sex abuse/pedophilia." As masturbation and homosexuality were demonized, these irrational emotional responses are based on ignorance and fear and promoted by agenda driven "victimological" academics who argue that all such relationships are intrinsically and pervasively harmful. There are vast differences between consensual sexually expressed child/older person relationships and unilateral child sex abuse by an older person."

### Targeting Communities and Institutions

- Picking a community or institution
  - Setting provides access to children.
  - Offender is "unknown" or "unsuspected."
  - Atmosphere of "tolerance and acceptance."
  - Community appears "gullible, naive and non-confrontive."
  - Has fluid or "loose" boundaries.

### Grooming Tactics

- Authority/trust position (teacher/elder/parent/married/middle aged).
- Presented self as Christian with "good moral character."
- Became "best of friends" with parents/family.
- "Took his time" (3 to 6 months, maybe a year-)
- Showing gratuitous trust in others.
- Categorical boys for future offending."
- Did it "right under people’s nose."
- Bribery - "big buddy with keys and a checkbook."
- Spent time doing fun things that the boys "liked to do."
- Acted "like an 11 to 13 year old."
- Talked about sex and got kids to share.
- Used own children as bait.

### Family Offenders: More or Less Dangerous?

- Chronic deception with intimate partner.
- Unique degree of access and control.
- Unique ability to undermine child’s relationships, activities, and isolation.
- Unique ability to twist other people’s perception of child’s credibility.
- Unique ability to create greater fear of disclosure.
- Unique ability to control child’s response to disclosure or detection.

### Exploring Sex Offender Grooming Tanner and Brake, 2013

- Overcoming resistance
  - Normalizing the assault
  - Stepwise progression and desensitization
- Maintaining access
  - Keeping victim available
  - Social/personal position
- Minimizing disclosure
  - Bonding
  - Push/pull (emotional support and isolation from others)
  - Induce fear and guilt

### Running spouse/parents down

- Criticizing other parent in front of victim
- Becoming the favored/more trusted/more fun/hipper parent/friend.
- Creating an “us against them” mentality.

"If someone is paying more attention to your child than you are, be concerned."
Selection, Engagement and Seduction of Children and Adults by Child Molesters

Targeting Families
- Family
  - Single, absent or “uninvolved” parents,
  - Gullibility, stress, poverty,
  - Lack of bonding, lack of supervision, lack of boundaries,
  - Lack of assertiveness
  - Prior victimization of parent/s.
  - Disabilities or other vulnerabilities.
  - Indiscriminate trust of others.
  - Parents who don’t seem to understand normal relationship boundaries.

Victim Selection
- Gender and tanner stage
- Personality characteristics
- Relationship with caretakers/support system
- Protective Factors (self-esteem, assertiveness, awareness and instincts)
- Personal, physical boundaries
- Bargaining power

Choosing “At Risk” Children
- Less believable
- Lower level of supervision
- Needler for attention/affection
- May have been abused “broken in” before
- Less willing to risk telling on teacher, coach, minister, favorite parent/uncle…..
- More bargaining power………..

Children With a History of Abuse
- Children who have been molested are more likely (3-6X) to be re-abused by a new offender (Finkelhor, 2007).
- Healthy adults ignore or seek help for children with sexual behavior problems.
- Offenders may sexualize children they know, or suspect, have been abused.

Creating Access and Gaining Opportunity
“Sometimes I offered to babysit while my girlfriend did the shopping and pushed the notion that she needed to take time for herself once in a while.”
“I made sure I was the one who read them bedtime stories and tucked them in.”
“I offered to take him on special outings.”
“I drugged the mother so she got sleepy early.”
Selection, Engagement and Seduction of Children and Adults by Child Molesters

Do Sex Offenders Molest When Other Persons Are Present? A Preliminary Investigation (Underwood, Patch, Cappelletty & Wolfe, 1999)

- 131 adult SOs
- 55% of the child molesters reported molesting children when another child was present
- 24% molested when another adult was present (but unaware)
- 14% molested when another adult and another child were present
- 25% molested when another child was in the same bed
- 12% molested when another adult was in the bed
- 77% said offending with others present made it “more exciting” and gave them a sense of “mastery”
- 75% said they were being “too compulsive to inhibit desires
- 39% said they were “stupid.”

Seduction of Children

- Engagement, desensitization and sexualization.
  - Study and befriend the child.
  - Develop a peer relationship or elevate the child to an “adult status” in the relationship.
  - Promote physical contact – “wrestling, hugging, tickling, kissing, massages, lap sitting and backrubs.”
  - Test child’s ability to “keep secrets.”
  - Expose child to sexual jokes and pornography

Goals – The Uncle/Neighbor

- To “test the water”
  - “the frog in a pot of boiling water.”
- Create an illusion of trust/safety/affection
  - “Andy of Mayberry.”
- Avoid suspicion
- Deflect accusations
- Separately, behaviors look innocent, taken together, they look more sinister.

“I found Jesus on the way to court.”

- Remorse can be faked.
- Remorse can be self-centered/self-serving.
  - Angry/sad victim rejected or told on them.
  - Believe victim led them on or didn’t resist.
  - Angry/sad they got caught and punished.
  - Victim was equally to blame for what happened.
  - Believe they were the person most harmed.
  - Don’t really appreciate harm to victim.
  - Angry/sad about ongoing consequences to themselves, “not a day goes by that I don’t live with the consequences of what I did.”

More “Seduction.”

“In order to normalize what I was doing to her, I’d playfully grope her mother in front of her.”

“I would leave the bathroom door open and let them see me masturbating.”

“I found them looking at a porn site and let them keep looking at it instead of punishing them.”

“I would put on a porn video and started rubbing myself while she was in the room, you wouldn’t believe how curious 11 year old girls are about stuff like that.”

Progression of Sexual Contact

- Fondling
- French kissing, body kissing and licking, oral sex
- Digital Penetration
- Simulated or Actual Intercourse
- Orgasm
- Posing for “sexy” pictures.
Selection, Engagement and Seduction of Children and Adults by Child Molesters

Keeping Children From Telling
- Tell them it’s “not a big deal and everyone already knows.”
- Suggest “no one will believe them.”
- “Ropec them into doing something bad so they won’t want everything to come out.”
- “I said people would blame them, and it would hurt our family.”
- “I told her we would get a divorce and the other kids would lose their dad.”
- “I told him the other students would hate him.”

Seducing Adults – Exploiting our Strengths and Weaknesses.
- “My persona was upstanding, law abiding, bill-paying, intelligent and kind.”
- “I made myself out to be a pillar of the community.”
- Verbalized “hatred” toward sex offenders.
- “I was always helpful and polite.”
- I’d “set things up to make the kid look like a liar.”
- If “head of the household,” he may be controlling, run his wife down, interfere with her relationships with children/victims.

“Lying, it’s easy.”
- “I said I couldn’t believe people would believe I was the kind of person who would do something like that.”
- “I said I would not admit to something I didn’t do.”
- “I said I was never alone with her and they believed me.”
- “I said my wife was out to get me and coached her.”
- “I said my brother in law always wanted me out the family and this was his way of doing it.”

Going to Court
- “I had my whole family believing she lied. They even wrote character letters to the Judge for me saying what an honest person I was and how they knew I would never hurt a child.”
- “Most of the mothers of my victims knew about my violent side and kept their daughters from testifying.”
- “I downloaded some junk about how to pass the polygraph and it worked.”

Review
- 1 in 5/10 children
- 5% to 15% disclosure rate
- 2% to 8% false allegation rate
- CSA = 3-6X increased risk of more CSA
- 1 out of 71 or 1 in 10-20?
- 120-200 crimes per SO
- 30% abuse FC & MC
- 40% age group/relationship crossover
- 40%-55% recidivism
- Treatment may have little effect
- Pornography/access to children/CSA/D&A abuse increase risk

Recommended Books and Videos
- Tools of the Trade
- Truth, Lies and Sex Offenders by Anna Salter
  Available via Specialized Training Services (579)
  1-800-848-1226
- Close to Home by the Mark McGwire Foundation
  Available via Amazon.com ($30)
- A Very Touching Book & There Is No Sex Fairy.
  By Jan Hindman
  www.janhindman.com
- Predators: Pedophiles, Rapists & Other Sex Offenders by Anna Salter.
- Identifying Child Molesters by Carla van Dam.
- The Socially Skilled Child Molester by Carla van Dam