CHARACTERISTICS OF COLLECTORS/OFFENDERS/INDICATORS OF OTHER OFFENSES

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OBJECTIVES:

After this session, you will be able to:

1. Discuss recent research regarding the relationship between online offending and offline child sexual abuse; and
2. List the characteristic modus operandi in which collectors of child pornography harm children.

REQUIRED READING:

Sharon Cooper, Characteristics of Offenders (Jan. 2011)
[NCJRL PowerPoint] .......................................................................................................................1

RECOMMENDED READING:


Characteristics of Offenders
The National Judicial College
February 2011

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Man Caught With Child Porn Outside School Sentenced

Wednesday, April 23, 2008 12:23 PM

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A man who fondled boys and was caught with child pornography outside a school was sentenced Wednesday to seven years and three months in prison.

Last month, Todd Gavorcik pleaded guilty to charges of illegal use of a minor in nudity-oriented material and gross sexual imposition.

In May 2007, Gavorcik was accused of touching two 10-year-old boys at a Groveport block party. Six months later he was arrested outside a Dublin elementary school after parents complained about a man using binoculars to spy on children 10TV's Patrick Bell reported.

After searching Gavorcik's car, police said they found the binoculars, along with child pornography.

During sentencing on Wednesday, Gavorcik apologized to the boys' families and asked the court for no jail time. He claimed that he was drunk and did not remember touching the boys at the block party.

Gavorcik also said he was a born-again Christian who doesn't fit well in jail.

The boys' families told 10TV News that they were satisfied with the judge's sentence.

"Very impressed with the judge's sentencing," a parent said. "I definitely think Todd needs to be out of society."

Gavorcik could be released from prison in five years. Once he is released he will be required to register as a sexual offender for the next 25 years.
Child Sexual Exploitation

- Child pornography – child sexual abuse images, or child abuse images
- Intrafamilial prostitution – exploitation of children by family members for money, shelter, contraband, or influence
- Commercial sexual exploitation of children-domestic minor sexual trafficking
- Cyberenticement – luring and grooming of children for the purpose of sexual abuse and exploitation
- Child Sex Tourism – travel to or from a country to access children for sexual exploitation
- Self-exploitation – self-made production of child pornography as a high risk sexual behavior

The Producer

- By definition, this offender will sexually abuse a child or children and photograph or videotape the event
- The grooming measures may track those seen in a “typical child sex offender” – befriending a parent and child, making the child feel special, confessions of love to the child, co-opting the child to secrecy, then convincing the child that she holds the key to the offender’s safety by non-disclosure
- This leaves a young child unsure about “abuse” often until he is older and

Producers

- Some sex offenders who produce child pornography groom a family into placing the child in the care of the offender for a “play date sleep over” or as a kind family friend who can watch the children (Operation Hamlet)
- Abuse may be less “loving” but often is introduced under the guise of playing games to the extreme of threats of death if the victims disclose the abuse (Ohio v Blankenberg; NC v Hess)
Producers

• Some offenders memorialize the sexual abuse because it is difficult to find on the Internet such as is the case in sadistic child sexual abuse
• Offenders in online child sex rings produce to belong to a larger group of like minded offenders (Wickerman Case)
• Other offenders produce in order to share and mentor. This may extend to hands on mentoring for sexual abuse and even intrafamilial child prostitution (US v Shellenberger)

Expert Working Group

• 15 countries were represented with presenters as well as expert discussants
• For 2 days, 45 substantive experts from the fields of psychology, social science, and analytical research with expertise in child pornography crimes, offenders and/or victims participated in focused academic exchange
• Gaps in knowledge were additional topics included in the discourse

Theme Sessions

• The Broader Context –
  – Included all of the presently conceived ways in which children are victimized by child pornography;
  – Discussed defining child pornography beyond just the legal parameters which would include fictional depictions, audio recordings, and text stories of the sexual abuse of children and
  – Reviewed gaps in knowledge such as what does a collector’s content tell us about the offender and how to prevent this problem, analogizing to other issues in society e.g. drunk driving, smoking etc.
Theme Sessions

• The relationship between online and offline sexual offences against children –
  – Assessed the risk posed by child pornography offenders as compared to contact offenders (child molesters)
  – Discussed the psychological and behavioral characteristics of child pornography offenders in treatment and the importance of polygraphs
  – Reviewed the social dimensions of trading online images
  – Identified gaps in knowledge such as protective factors that might exist in offenders to determine incarceration versus probation and the need for research to understand why the conviction rate is higher for Internet crimes versus contact child sexual abuse

Theme Sessions

• Conceptualizing risk-
  – Defined situational factors and criminogenic approaches in prevention;
  – Discussed whether theories of contact sexual offending helps in understanding risks
  – Considered how to advance the present knowledge base in risk assessment for Internet sexual offenders
  – Discussed that gaps in knowledge in this area particularly regarding the disturbing trends of self-exploitation by youth (which often mirrors adult behaviors which is not illegal)

Information and Communication Technology Methods of Abuse

“Memorialization of a Sexual Encounter ~ Even if the Encounter Is Voyeuristic “
Intrafamilial Sex Trafficking

A P: GAY UNIVERSITY EXEC SELLS CHILD FOR SEX
July 2, 2009
Associated Press Story: GAY UNIVERSITY EXEC SELLS CHILD FOR SEX

WASHINGTON: A Duke University official has been arrested and charged with offering his adopted 5-year-old son for sex.

Frank Lombard, the school's associate director of the Center for Health Policy, was arrested after an Internet sting, according to the FBI's Washington field office and the city's police department.

Authorities said that Lombard tried to persuade a person, who he did not know was a police officer, to travel to North Carolina to have sex with Lombard's child.

The detective's affidavit charges Lombard identified himself online as "perv dad for fun," and says that in an online chat with the detective, Lombard said he had sexually molested his son, whom he adopted as an infant.

The court papers say Lombard also invited the undercover detective to North Carolina to have sex with the young boy, and even suggested which hotel he should use.

Lombard was charged in federal court in Washington with attempting to induce someone to cross state lines to engage in sex with a child. If convicted, he could face a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

Worse Case Scenarios

- Production of images within the context of child abduction, rape (at times recurrent) and homicide
- Collection and/or production of sadistic or bestiality images
- Collection of images (real or virtual) of child torture
Why Do Offenders Collect?

• Sexual gratification
• Plan for action
• To enhance social skills (networking)
• To elevate one’s position among online peers
• To improve computer skills

First Response In Research On Collectors (Taylor, & Quayle 2003)

US v Joseph Duncan

Risk Assessments

• Many methods of assessing risk include sex offender evaluations including phallometry
• Internet child pornography has lead to a need for changes even in the classic assessments
• Of great interest are 2 studies both of which included phallometry and polygraphy
Seto, Cantor and Blanchard (2006)

- This study investigated whether being charged with a child pornography offense was a valid diagnostic indicator of pedophilia as represented by phallometric–assessed sexual arousal to children
- The results indicated that child pornography offenders had almost 3X the odds of being identified as a pedophile as compared to actual contact offenders

Bourke & Hernandez (2009)

- This study investigated whether child pornography offenders (possession and transmission, only) were at little risk for engaging in hands-on offenses or were these offenses undetected
- Comparison of the incidence of prior contact sexual crimes documented at sentencing versus after sex offender treatment revealed a sexual contact percentage of 26% vs 85%

Online to Offline Sexual Offending

- The Bourke & Hernandez study as well as the Seto study assists in realizing that child pornography possession is a marker for prior contact offending and pedophilia
- Additional research has been completed to determine if online collectors become offline offenders after having spent much time with images
Online to Offline Sexual Offending

• An early hypothesis (Taylor 1999) regarding collection of images was that after offenders went online, they discovered online communities of likeminded individuals who provided them with social support for their sexual interest in children.

• This promoted disinhibition and engagement with increasingly explicit abusive images, habituation to the materials and eventually promoted seeking offline children for sexual abuse.

Online to Offline Sexual Offending

• Subsequent research revealed however that many collection offenders would limit the types of images they collected to a certain type of abuse, avoiding escalation in severity and were more likely to seek out online contact with other offenders than with children (Quayle & Taylor 2002, Taylor & Quayle 2006).

• Research suggests a greater focus on social networking by offenders on the acquisition of sexual abuse images.

Updated: 2007-06-18
08:42:56

Police Nab 700 Suspects in Pedophile Ring

AP

LONDON (JUNE 18) - Police smashed a global Internet pedophile ring, rescuing 31 children and rounding up more than 700 suspects worldwide, authorities said Monday.

Some 200 suspects are based in Britain, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Center said. The ring was traced to an Internet chat room called “Kids the Light of our Lives” that featured images of children being subjected to horrific sexual abuse.
Online to Offline Sexual Offending
• Evidence emerged that collectors will ardently seek to acquire images for others with whom they share a strong online relationship
• They will also seek to increase their social status by owning and providing rare or personally produced images
• Therefore, the motive for contact sexual offending offline is to meet the needs of online associates

Online to Offline Sexual Offending
• In contrast to the common conceptualization that child pornography is a by-product of contact child sexual offending, in some cases contact offending may be a by-product of an individual’s desire to produce child pornography
• The online network of collectors is like a virtual “locker room” of individuals who share a common interest in sexual exploitation of children and sexual abuse is to produce more images

Gaps in Knowledge Regarding Online to Offline Offending
• Recognition of protective factors that might exist in offenders
• Do outreach programs such as STOP IT NOW! provide the “reality check” that some offenders need to curtail their online behaviors before they become an offline offender
• Does CP collecting lead to CSA or does CSA lead to CP collecting
A Word About Youth Offenders

- Youth offenders are thought to be one of the fastest rising type of offenders of production of adolescent (albeit still children) pornography in both circumstances of self-production and as compliant victims
- The normalization of sexual harm that is aggressively marketed to teens and tweens leading to the sexualization of girls plays an important role in sexual self-objectification (APA, 2007)

Youth Offenders

- Youths who are collecting child pornography images are in a different developmental stage of sexuality as compared to adults
- Prefrontal cortex maturation is incomplete until nearly 23 years of age and impulse control, judgment and emotional responses are not intact during adolescence
- Researches share concerns that sexual mores are dramatically being altered by media exposure (USA Today: Jan 20, 2010) since cable TV is not held to the restrictions enforced by the FCC

Youth Offenders

- Decisions regarding probation and treatment should include a knowledge of the increasing media exposure for youth to an all time high of 7.5 hours per day as compared to 6 hours per day in 1999 (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2010) of media a great deal of which includes online, web page changes (Facebook, MySpace, etc.)
Compulsive Internet Use?

• The brain shown on functional MRI studies reveals that for youth and adults alike, Internet use provides a sense of reward to the brain – as graphomotor behaviors lead to visual and cognitive positive results
• This reward feeling occurs in the same part of the brain stimulated with gambling, obsessive shopping, and video gaming

US v Wulf

Videogame Addiction
and Child Homicide

Child Pornography on Play Station 3
(14 March 2009)

Anthony Scott O’Shea is one of the first offenders charged with promoting child pornography, online solicitation of a minor and sexual performance of a child through a video game. The victim is an 11-year-old girl.

O’Shea met and spent several months establishing a relationship with the child in a videogame called Warhawk via PS3’s online network.

The victim reported O’Shea when he kept asking for more pictures and wanted to meet her for a sexual encounter.
Understanding Offenders in Child Sexual Exploitation

Requires Understanding the Use of the Internet and Communication Technology
In All Of Its Applications “(Apps)”