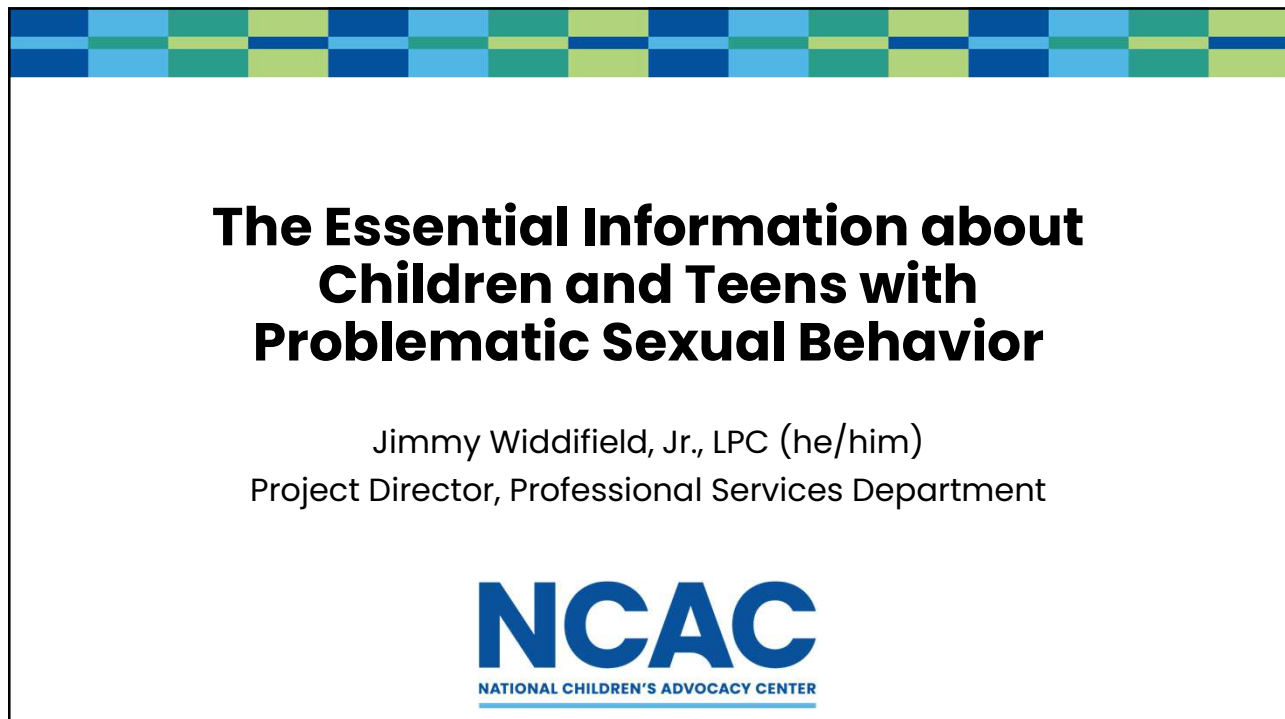


1



2

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Award No. 2020-CI-FX-K001 and **15PJDP-23-GK-01575-JJVO**
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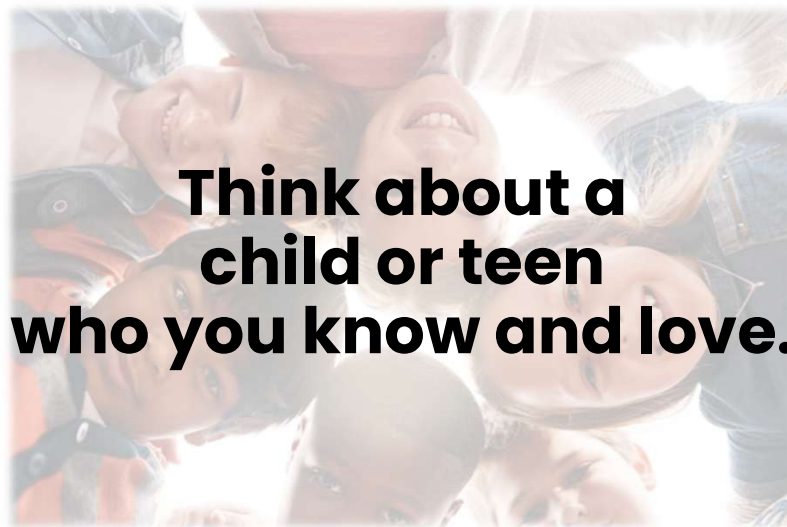


- **Put you first.**
- **Be mindful of your own responses and well-being.**
- **Make decisions to keep yourself mentally, physically, spiritually healthy and your worldview harmonized.**

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5

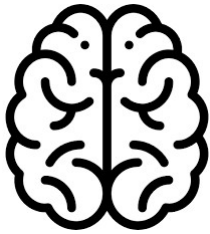
You Will Be Able to...

1. Summarize common characteristics of children and teens with problematic sexual behaviors.
2. Apply research findings to dispel persistent and adverse myths about children and teens with problematic sexual behaviors.
3. Describe strategies to enhance response to cases of children and teens with problematic sexual behavior.

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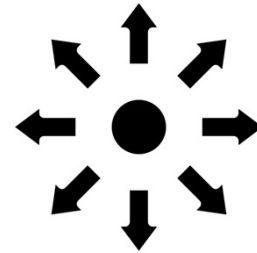
Context of Normative Sexual Development



Cognitive



Communication/Language



Motor Skills

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Children's "Normative" Sex Play

- Occurs in context of overall development
- Learning, exploring
- In the moment, spontaneous
- Doesn't happen often
- Mutual agreement



- Familiarity, "like-ness"
- Not harmful, emotionally or physically
- Changes as children get older
- Respond appropriately to intervention

Image source: Microsoft online images
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CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2013–2023

The Percentage of High School Students Who: ^a	2013 Total	2015 Total	2017 Total	2019 Total	2021 Total	2023 Total	Trend (All Years Available)	2-Year Change (2021–2023)
Ever had sex	47	41	40	38	30	32		
Had four or more lifetime sexual partners	15	11	10	9	6	6		
Were currently sexually active	34	30	29	27	21	21		
Used a condom during last sexual intercourse ^b	59	57	54	54	52	52		
Used effective hormonal birth control ^c	–	–	–	–	33	33	–	
Were ever tested for HIV	13	10	9	9	6	7		
Were tested for STDs during the past year ^d	–	–	–	9	5	6		

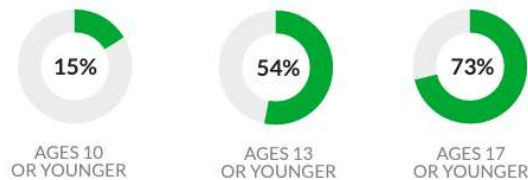
Image source: CDC



9

Intersection: Development and Pornography

Percent of teen respondents who have seen online pornography, by age:



12 is the average age when children first consumed pornography.



Image source: commonsensemedia.org



10

Intersection: Development and Self-Generated (Child Sexual Abuse) Media

Fig 1 | Experiences with initial shares and perceptions of normalcy

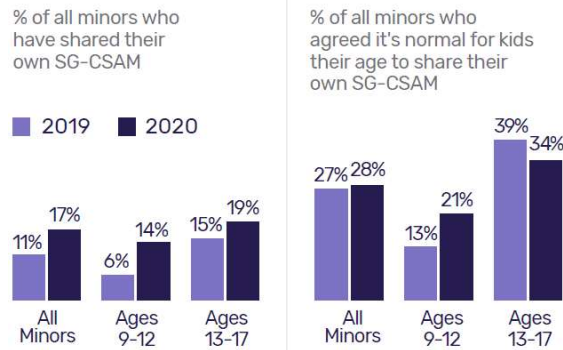


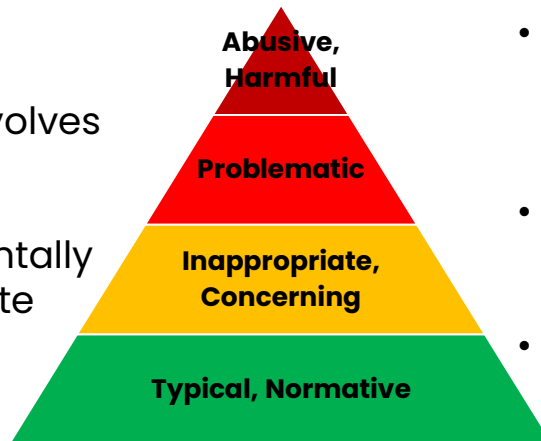
Image source: commonsensemedia.org



11

Problematic Sexual Behavior (PSB)

- Behavior
- Typically involves genitals
- Developmentally inappropriate



- Potential/actual harm, physically and/or emotionally
- Diverse range of motives, origins
- Legality



12

Continuum of Sexual Behavior

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploratory• Mutual agreement• Close in age, size, and/or development• Intermittent• Responds positively to caregiver intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disparity in age, size, and/or development• Preoccupying• Planned• Coerced, forced• Does not respond to caregiver intervention
--	--

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Children and Teens with PSB

- Person first language reduces risk of harsher responses
- Developmentally sensitive
- Behavior oriented
- Age groups
 - 3-6: Preschool children
 - 7-12: School-age children
 - 13-18: Teens
- No inference of origin or goal
- Not diagnostic, no "profile"

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Contributing Factors for Teens

(Adapted from David Prescott, 2007)

- Sexual curiosity + opportunity + lack of self-control and/or problem-solving skills
- Developmental immaturity (socially awkward/isolated, impulsivity)
- Antisocial personality characteristics (general pattern of delinquency; includes sexual behaviors)
- RARE for teens to have a sexual disorder or deviant sexual interest in children (e.g., pedophilia)



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Characteristics of Children/Teens with PSB

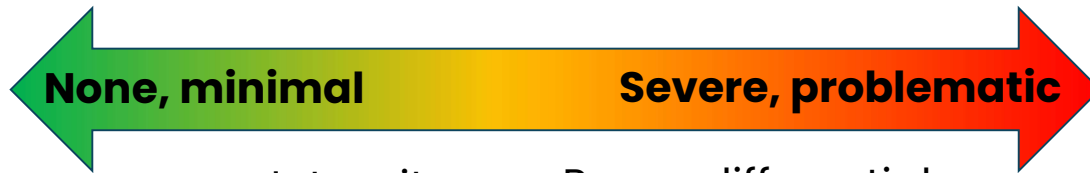
- No distinct profiles
- Many do not meet criteria for any mental health disorder
- Co-occurring concerns: Learning, behavioral
- Rare for children or teens to have deviant sexual interest in children (e.g., pedophilia)
- Teens who engage in PSB with children vs. peer sexual assault are less delinquent, often immature

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Factors that Impact Other Children and Families



- Intensity
- Behavior
- History
- Power differential
- Functioning
- Available support

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Assessment: Characteristics and Purpose

- Treatment focused, not forensic or investigative
- Wholistic, ecological psycho-social clinical assessment; psychosexual evaluations rarely needed for children
- Identify treatment needs, recommendations to support child/teen who initiated PSB, recipient child(ren), and their families
- Considerations for referral source and/or partners
 - Safety planning
 - Visitation and placement decisions
 - Court requested
 - Case management

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Characteristics of Evidence-Based Treatments

- **Actively involve custodial caregiver(s)**
- Include behavior management in child's natural ecologies
- Plan for safety and preventing future problematic and illegal behavior
- Positive peer interactions and friendships, prosocial activities
- Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
- Very small sub-group with deviant sexual interest need specialized protocols

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21

PSB Specific Treatment Characteristics

- Custodial caregivers as primary agents of change, actively involved
- Out-patient, community-based
- Typical duration is 3-6 months
- Support and advocacy for child(ren), caregivers, families
- Communication with team and partners, and collaboration with other providers
- Culturally informed

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22

Treatment Success for Children

Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy
12 Sessions: Caregiver & Child

98%

Dynamic Play Therapy
12 Sessions: Caregiver & Child

89%

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Future PSB Rates Compared to Children No Known PSB

Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy
12 Sessions: Caregiver & Child


2%

Comparison Group

3%

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24




PSB Treatment for Children: Caregivers

- **Enhancing parenting and behavior management skills**
- Sexual behavior rules
- Safety planning (i.e., abuse prevention)
- Child sexual development and communicating with children about sex education topics
- Support

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25




PSB Treatment for Children: Child

- Sexual behavior rules
- **Impulse-control skills**
 - Adaptive coping skills
 - Critical thinking
- Apology (includes activity with parents/caregivers)
- Support

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26



PSB Treatment for Teens and Caregivers


- Sex laws
- Cognitive-Behavioral based processing, critical thinking / problem-solving
- Enhanced processing
- Caregiver-Teen communication
- Sexual education
- Apology (includes activity with parents/caregivers)
- Support (teens and caregivers)

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27

Sex Offense Recidivism Rates for Teens



3%



28

Success Rates for Teens

97%

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Response Goals

- Provide accurate information, dispel myths
- Acknowledge behavior is serious
- Cultivate hope
- Coordinated care and support
- Assess needs, identify resources
 - All family members
 - Recognize needs are dynamic, assess changes over time
 - Connect to services
 - Give action steps
- Individualized plan for safety and services

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30

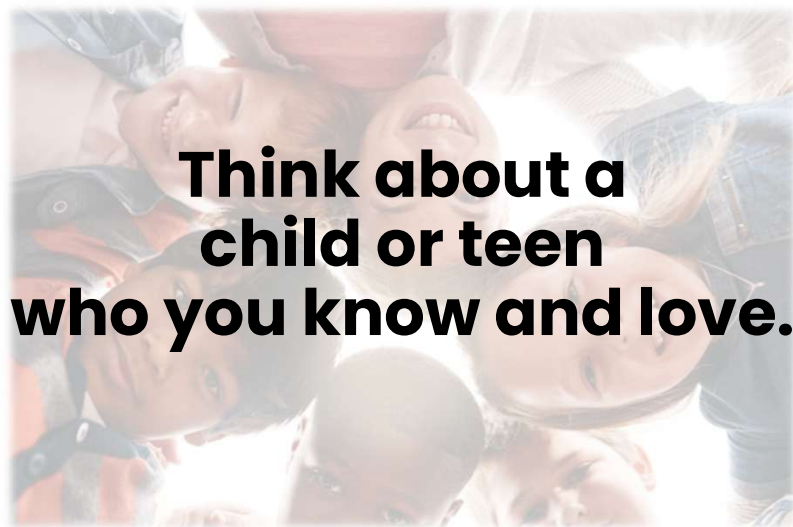
Core Safety Planning Components

- Identify available caregivers and their ability to provide high level of visual (eyes-on) supervision when child/teen who initiated the PSB is with other children
- Identify play/social, sleeping, and bathing arrangements
- Identify child/teen access to electronics and internet

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31



**Think about a
child or teen
who you know and love.**

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32

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