

From Hysteria to Hope: Bringing Reason to the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

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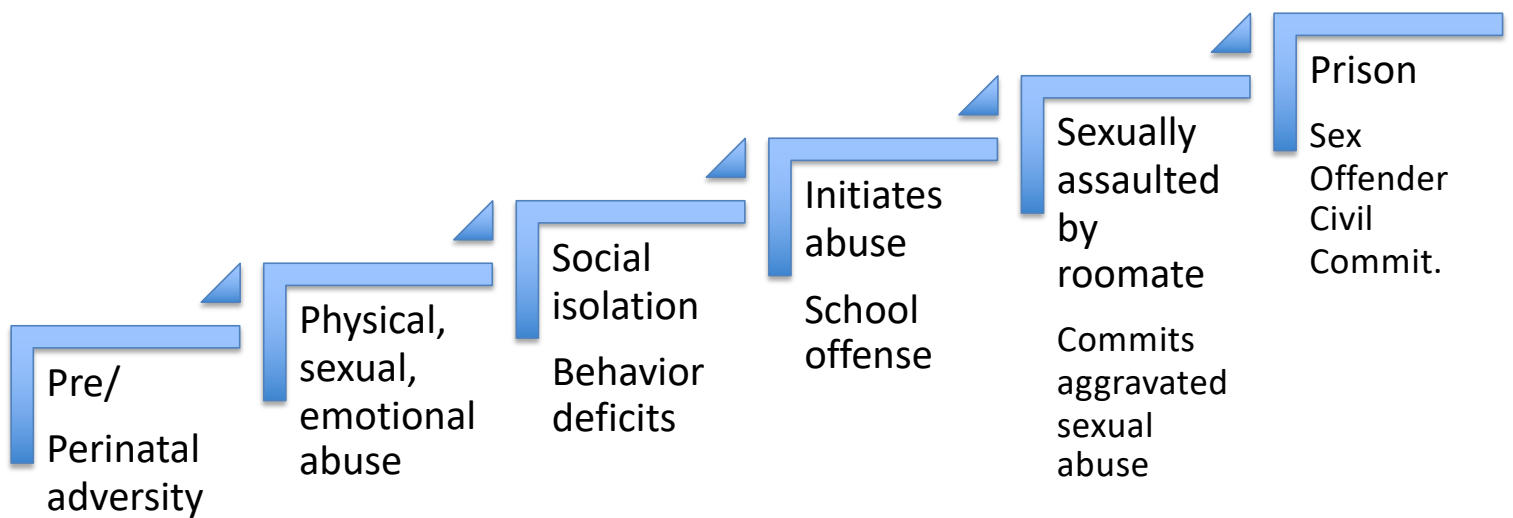


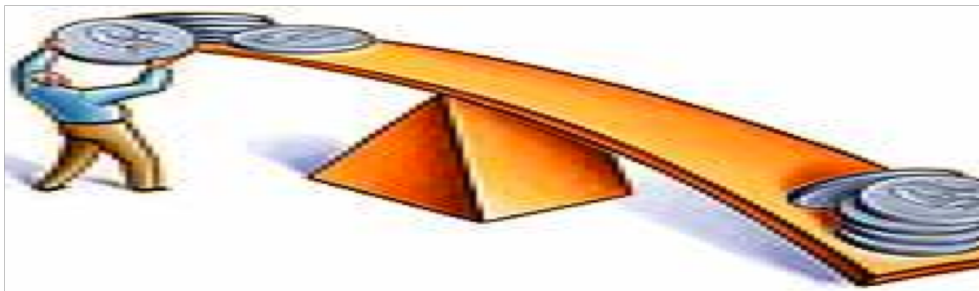
JOHNS HOPKINS
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The Case of Bobby



Bobby's Life Course





What Interventions did Cost

Treatment & Punishment	Estimated Expense
1 Yr Residential	\$90,000
5 Yrs Incarceration	\$250,000
5 Yrs Civil Commit	\$315,000
Trials, registration, etc.	\$50,000
TOTAL	\$705,000

What Prevention might Cost

Evidence Based Prevention Programs	Estimated Expense
Nurse Family Partnership	\$9,118
Incredible Years	\$7,301
Multisystemic therapy	\$6,681
TOTAL	\$23,100

What Kind of Kid Commits a Sexual Offense?

1. Traumatized children reacting to their own abuse
2. Persistently delinquent teens
3. Otherwise normal adolescents acting experimentally but irresponsible
4. Generally aggressive and violent youth
5. Immature and impulsive youth
6. Adolescents engaging in normative but illegal consenting sex
7. Youth indifferent to others who selfishly take what they want
8. Youth imitating what they see in the media
9. Youth misinterpreting what they believed was mutual interest
10. Youth ignorant of the law or potential consequences of their acts
11. Youth imitating what is normal in their own family/ecologies
12. Youth attracted to the thrill of rule violation
13. Socially isolated youth who turn to younger children as substitutes foragemates
14. Seriously mentally ill youth
15. Youth responding to peer pressure
16. Youth preoccupied with sex
17. Youth under the influence of drugs or alcohol
18. Youth swept away by sexual arousal of the moment
19. Youth with incipient sexual deviance problems

Economic Burden of Child Sexual Abuse

Based on substantiated CSA cases in 2015:

- Estimated annual economic burden of CSA is approximately **\$9.3 billion**
- Estimated average lifetime cost = **\$283,000 per female victim of nonfatal CSA**
- We lacked credible economic data to estimate the cost for male victims of nonfatal CSA



Economics of the Choices We've Made

1. Lengthy incarceration
2. Sex offender civil commitment
3. Registration & notification
4. Residence, employment & education restrictions
5. Intensive supervision



What Our Choices Cost: Prison

Federal prison costs \$32,000 per person/per year (PPPY)

- 16,000 sex offenders housed in federal prisons
= **\$512,000,000 annual for federal incarceration**

State prison costs \$25,000-\$60,000 PPPY

- 166,000 sex offenders housed in state prisons
= **\$4 - \$10 billion annually for state incarceration**
- Half of all these cases – 83,000 - sentenced to mandatory minimums averaging 12-20 years
= **\$300,000 to \$1,200,000 investment per person**



What Our Choices Cost: Sex Offender Civil Commitment (SOCC)

SOCC facilities cost \$25 - \$38 million to establish and \$100,000 to \$250,000 PPPY to run

Common lengths of stay: 4 – 25 years =
\$400,000 to \$6,250,000 investment per person

U.S. taxpayers spend approximately **\$520 million per year** to confine and treat 5,200 people.



What Our Choices Cost: Residence, Employment, & Education Restrictions

Residence restrictions disproportionately limit affordable housing:

- 424,136 rental housing units
 - 270,847 (64%) deemed affordable
 - 6,832 (1.6%) affordable and available to registrants

Registrants report high rates of past-year

- job denial
- job loss
- denial of promotion



What Our Choices Cost: Sex Offender Registration & Notification (SORN)

No established PPPY costs for SORN

State estimates to establish and maintain SORN:

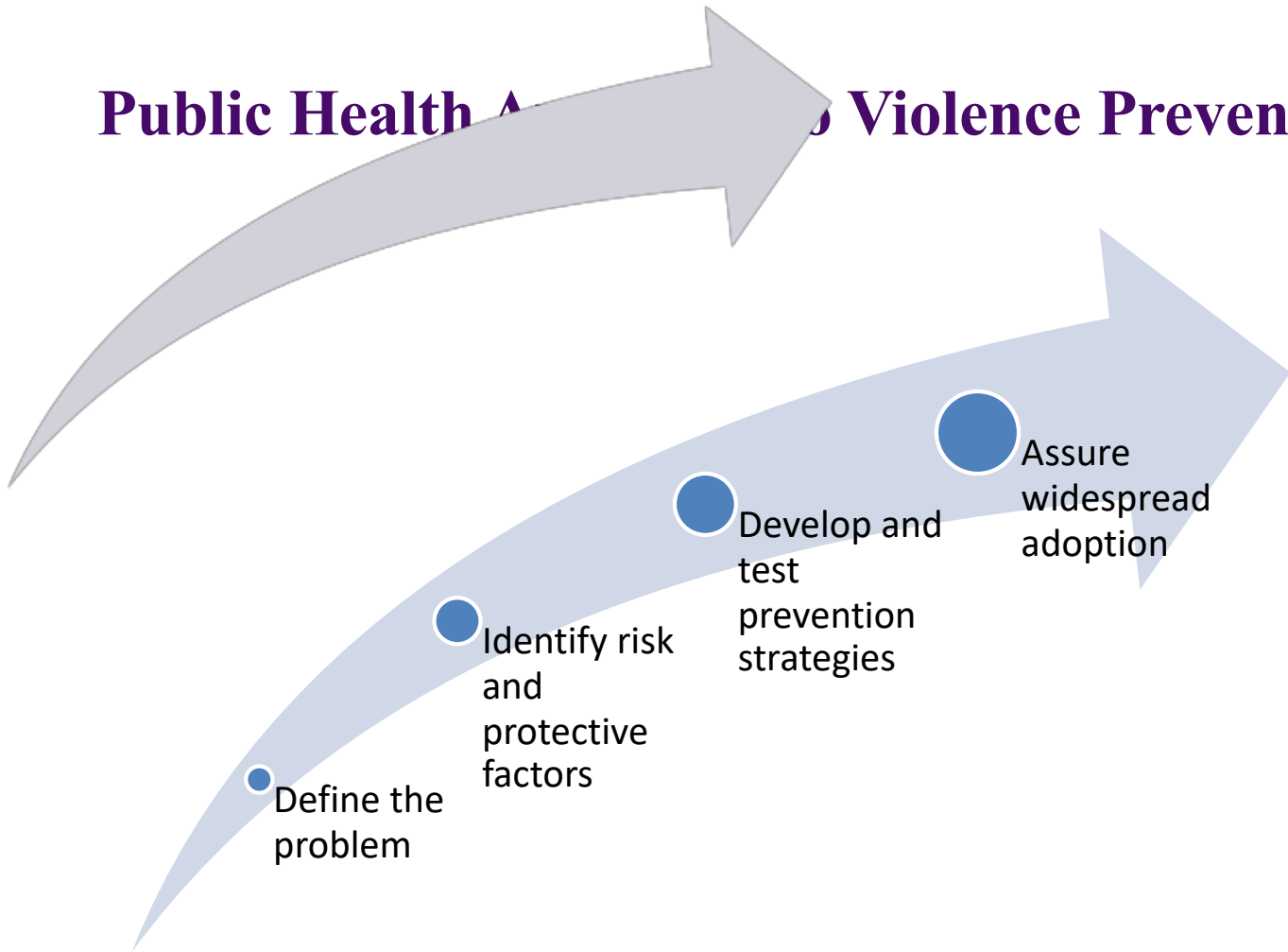
- \$21,300,000 plus “tens of millions” in other costs (California)
- \$8,000,000 - \$12,500,000 per year (Ohio)
- \$13 million annually for federal implementation grants
- Disamenity effect of living near a registrant:
 - Average home prices decline 2%-5%
 - \$60,000,000 in depressed home values for Charlotte, North Carolina between 1996-2003



What does Prevention Look Like?



Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention



Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Efforts

Steps 1 & 2: Scope & Risk Factors

- Violence Against Children Survey projects

Step 3: Prevention

- Responsible Behavior with Younger Children
- Help Wanted
- Best practices in youth serving organizations projects

Related work

- Communication project



Violence against Children Surveys: Towards a Violence-Free Generation



<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/VACS-one-page.pdf>



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Responsible Behavior with Younger Children (RBYC)

A universal prevention program targeting 12-13 year old students and their parents with knowledge, skills and tools to avoid engaging younger children in sexual behavior



RBYC Collaborators & Funder



Cindy Schaeffer, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, University of Maryland



Catherine P. Bradshaw, Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development, Curry School of Education, University of Virginia



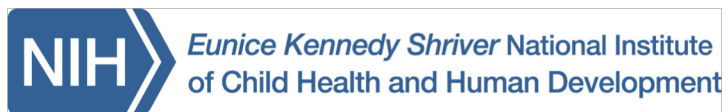
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Amanda Ruzicka, Research Associate, Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse



Marcus Nole, RBYC interventionist, Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse



RBYC Study Phases

Phase I: Focus Groups

- Feedback on acceptability of intervention procedures and concepts from educators, parents, and students.

Phase II: Rapid Prototyping

- We delivered discrete components of the RBYC curriculum to 7th grade health classes
- Feedback on what works/what needs work

Phase III: Small Randomized Controlled Trial

- Two active schools and two wait-list schools



RBYC Study Core Concepts

1. Understanding developmental differences between older and younger children
2. Perspective-taking and empathic responding to younger children
3. Distinguishing healthy versus unhealthy relationships
4. Understanding why child sexual abuse happens and how to prevent it



Sessions 1-2: Understanding developmental differences between older and younger children

Learning Objectives

- Explain how younger kids differ from older kids in their preferred activities, skills, and knowledge
- Understand how these differences may explain a child's behavior

In-class Activities

- Role plays (four scenarios)
 - Example: "Your friends come over to play video games. Your 7 year old sibling comes in and wants to play too."

Feedback

- Teachers and parents endorsed the RBYC focus on teaching developmental differences between younger kids and teenagers.
- Students really enjoyed the "hands on" role plays.



Sessions 3-4: Perspective-taking and empathic responding to younger children

Learning Objectives

- Take the perspective of a younger kid in common situations
- Understand the younger kid's feelings in these situations
- Develop empathy for younger kid's feelings and needs

In-class Activities

Family Activity Review:

“Discuss with your parent memories of when YOU were a child and interacted with older children or teenagers”

Session Feedback

- The informal nature can minimize barriers for parents completing the family activities with their kids.
- Students identified other family members they would like to engage around the family activities (e.g., aunt/uncle, grandparents)



Sessions 5-6: Distinguishing healthy versus unhealthy relationships

Learning Objectives

- Understand what behaviors constitute child sexual abuse (CSA)
- Overcome misconceptions about CSA perpetration
- Understand the negative impact of CSA on victim mental health

In-class Activities

- Scenario-based discussions
 - “Brendan has some friends over when his 4-year old cousin comes into the room naked. He grabs a blanket, wraps it around his cousin, and escorts her out of the room and back to where her mom is.”
- Review list of child sexual abuse behaviors

Session Feedback

- Teachers and parents agreed it is important for students to recognize the range of behaviors that constitutes child sexual abuse.



Sessions 7-8: Understanding why child sexual abuse happens and how to prevent it

Learning Objectives

- Be able to recognize the personal and situational factors that increase the risk of CSA occurring

In-class Activities

- Discussion around main factors that increase the likelihood of CSA
 - E.g. **Misreading cues**. Sometimes younger kids can be very curious around sex and sexual development and may reach out to teens for information.
 - What are some responsible ways you can respond when younger kids ask you something about sex.

Session's Feedback

- Teachers and parents highlighted the importance of encouraging students to find their own way of handling different situations



Help Wanted Prevention Project

An online prevention intervention for teens and young people who have an unwanted sexual attraction to young (prepubescent) children

Intervention modules target young people, friends and family, and professionals



Principal Investigators

- Elizabeth Letourneau, Associate Professor, JHSPH
- Ryan Shields, Assistant Professor, UMass Lowell
- Amanda Ruzicka, Research Associate, JHSPH

Collaborators

- Karen Baker, Director, National Sexual Violence Resource Center
- Maia Christopher, Executive Director, ATSA
- Geraldine Crisci, Therapist, Geraldine Crisci and Associates
- Gerald Hover, INTERPOL Crimes Against Children
- Laura Kuhle, Therapist, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin
- Jill Levenson, Therapist and Associate Professor, Barry University
- Kieran McCartan, UVW, Bristol
- Michael Miner, Professor University of Minnesota
- Daniel Rothman, Psychologist, Forensic Psychological Services
- Joan Tabachnick, President, DSM Consulting

Funders

Raliance: Ending Sexual Violence in One Generation
HAND Foundation



Help Wanted Prevention Project: Method

Phase I: Qualitative Study

- Interviewed 30 young adults who self-identified as having an attraction to young children
- Results informed selection of intervention targets

Phase II: Created first five online sessions

- Core concepts address:
 - Why sexual abuse of children is harmful
 - Coping with arousal
 - Building a healthy sexuality
 - Whether and when to disclose the attraction
 - Addressing stigma and shame



Help Wanted Prevention Project: Method

Phase III: Create content for family/ friends and professionals

- Core concepts may include:
 - How to respond when someone discloses sexual interest in children
 - How to support someone with sexual interest in children
 - Addressing stigma and shame
 - Reporting requirements (for professionals)
 - Resources



Help Wanted

<https://3cinstitute.proofhq.com/proof/gtk6KY5kWeVFfOuqctwObOoJu4NyKQoUn3KpS4J7F8mlzK2h1C>



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ELIZABETH LETOURNEAU
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Medium

<https://medium.com/matter/youre-16-youre-a-pedophile-you-dont-want-to-hurt-anyone-what-do-you-do-now-e11ce4b88bdb>

<https://soundcloud.com/this-american-life/522-tarred-and-feathered-act-two-help-wanted>

Best Practices Research Partners



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Center for Child and Family Traumatic Stress

Federal Policy Efforts

- The Moore Center, in collaboration with CRD Associates, successfully lobbied to add language to last year's Appropriations Bill Report
- That language:
 - noted that “more emphasis should be placed on prevention.”
 - directed the CDC to report to congress about it's child sexual abuse prevention efforts
- This year, we are lobbying for \$10 million in new funding to the CDC to support child sexual abuse prevention research efforts.



Quotes from Worldwide Bishops' Conference

Card. Marx: "...traceability and transparency are only one topic among many, to be taken into consideration in connection with abuse prevention and dealing with abuse."

Card. Cupich: "We must unswervingly incorporate broad lay participation into every effort to identify and construct structures of accountability for the prevention of clergy sexual abuse."

Archbishop Scicluna "Our stewardship should also embrace the urgent and long-term issue of the prevention of sexual misconduct in general and of sexual abuse of minors in particular. "



Sources: Costs of responding to child sexual abuse

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- Texas sex offender civil commitment program: <https://www.texasobserver.org/a-prison-by-any-other-name/>
- Number of civilly committed sex offenders: <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2016/01/27/why-some-young-sex-offenders-are-held-indefinitely>
- Number of incarcerated sex offenders: <http://www.statisticbrain.com/sex-offender-statistics/>
- Number of registered sex offenders: http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/documents/Sex_Offenders_Map.pdf
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Slide 6: Letourneau, Brown, Fang, Hassan, & Mercy (in press). The Economic burden of child sexual abuse in the United States. *Child Abuse & Neglect*.

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