



P E D O P H I L I A

INFORMATIONAL FACT SHEET

AUGUST 10, 2012

What is Pedophilia?

- Pedophilia is a paraphilia marked by recurring, intense, sexually arousing fantasies, urges or behaviors involving prepubescent children, generally aged 13 or younger.
- A paraphilia is a psychological sexual disorder and is not a type of sex crime.
- Pedophilia is one of the more common paraphilias.
- Pedophilia can be diagnosed based on subject self-report, laboratory findings, or behavior.
- Pedophiles are often classified as either exclusive or non-exclusive.
 - Of incarcerated offenders diagnosed with Pedophilia, only 7% identify themselves as exclusive (i.e., they are sexually attracted to and offend against only one gender).

What is the prevalence of Pedophilia?

- Research shows that approximately 50% of convicted child sex offenders are pedophiles.
- The prevalence of pedophilia in the general population is estimated to be about 5%.

What features are associated with Pedophilia?

- The majority of diagnosed pedophiles are male.
- The associated sexual arousal often stems from thoughts and fantasies about the prepubescent child's body.
 - Pedophiles can be focused on males, females, or children of both genders.
- Pedophiles often seek opportunities to be with children through family, occupations, coaching, hobbies, spiritual groups, or volunteering.
- Some pedophiles act out their fantasies in legal ways through masturbation, sex with dolls that resemble children, or sex with adults that look, dress, or act like children.
- 50% of persons in prison for a sexual crime against a child who are diagnosed with pedophilia were married at the time of their offense.
- 88% of child sex offenders meet the diagnosis of pedophilia; these perpetrators offend more often than non-pedophile child sex offenders and have more victims.
- If the victim is female, the pedophile is most likely a relative or family friend, and the abuse most likely took place in her home. If the victim is male, the pedophile could also be a stranger and the abuse is more likely to have taken place outside of the home.