INTRODUCTION: Overview of this Forensic Resource Hub

Foundational Statement:
This forensic resource hub deals with complex aspects regarding a controversial topic – child sexual abuse. This includes discussing variations in degrees and types of offense; difficult questions posed by research findings, and conflicting perspectives on how to best address these problems. The student should understand with great clarity – **Dr. Simpson does not advocate for the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of any child, adolescent or adult at any time, in any place or in any circumstance.**

Pedophilia

Clinically and scientifically defined as a sexual attraction to prepubescent children— that is, children who are not showing any signs of pubertal development. This can be distinguished from ***hebephilia***, a sexual attraction to pubescent children (i.e., children who are showing some signs of pubertal development such as breast budding, genital changes, and the development of axillary hair but who are clearly not physically mature). Seto, Michael C. (2013-06-30). Internet Sex Offenders. American Psychological Association.

DSM-5

The *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* 5th edition (DSM-5) has a significantly larger diagnostic features section for pedophilia than the previous DSM version. A portion states, "*The diagnostic criteria for pedophilic disorder are intended to apply both to individuals who freely disclose this paraphilia and to individuals who deny any sexual attraction to prepubertal children (generally age 13 years or younger), despite substantial objective evidence to the contrary."*

DSM-5 diagnosis of Pedophilic Disorder includes:

A. Over a period of at least 6 months, recurrent, intense sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges, or behaviors involving sexual activity with a prepubescent child or children (generally age 13 years or younger).
B. The individual has acted on these sexual urges, or the sexual urges or fantasies cause marked distress or interpersonal difficulty.
C. The individual is at least age 16 years and at least 5 years older than the child or children in Criterion A. Note: Do not include an individual in late adolescence involved in an ongoing sexual relationship with a 12- or 13-year-old.

Specify whether:
Exclusive type (attracted only to children)
Nonexclusive type

Specify if:
Sexually attracted to males
Sexually attracted to females
Sexually attracted to both

Specify if:
Limited to incest

"The extensive use of pornography depicting prepubescent children is a useful diagnostic indicator of pedophilic disorder. This is a specific instance of the general case that individuals are likely to choose the kind of pornography that corresponds to their sexual interests. . . Psychophysiological measures of sexual interest may sometimes be useful . . . The most thoroughly researched and longest used of such measures is penile plethysmography, . . . Viewing time, . . . is also used to diagnose pedophilic disorder, especially in combination with self-report measures." (DSM-5, pp.698-699)

ICD-10

The ICD-10 definition of pedophilia is "*A sexual preference for children, usually prepubertal or early pubertal age*."

Types of Child Sex Offenders

Holmes and Holmes (2002) identified types of child sex offenders and their psychological profiles. They are divided as follows:

- Situational – do not prefer children, but offend under certain conditions.
    - *Regressed* – Typically have relationships with adults, but stressors causes them to seek children as a substitute.
    - *Morally Indiscriminate* – General sexual deviants, who may commit other sexual offenses unrelated to children.
    - *Naive/Inadequate* – Often mentally disabled in some way, find children less threatening.
- Preferential – have true sexual interest in children.
    - *Mysoped* – Sadistic and violent, target strangers more often than acquaintances.
    - *Fixated* – Little or no activity with own age, described as an "overgrown child".

Note that pedophilia and sexual abuse of a child are not synonymous.

- A person can be a pedophile and not violate the law. Their actions can be limited to masturbating to fantasies of sex with children and/or viewing legal depictions of minors.
- A person can commit sex crimes against a child and not be a pedophile.
    - Someone who is regressed, morally indiscriminate, or naïve/inadequate. (Holmes and Holmes, 2002)
    - Someone who is a psychopathic deviate.
    - A situational event/opportunity
    - An adult who commits sexual crimes against an adolescent (hebephile). In most states "*child*" status is up to the age of 18. But for the DSM-5, a "*child*" is pre-pubertal (only up to the age of 13).
    - An adolescent who is younger than 16 and commits a sex crime against a younger peer who is not more than 5 years younger.