

# NEARI NEWS:

TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE

An Essential Tool for Professionals Working with those who Sexually Abuse or... A Great New Way to Stay Current with Cutting Edge Sexual Abuse Research.



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Dear Colleague,

Since you are on our mailing list, you may also have recently received our new NEARI Press catalog. We have ten new titles this year that feature many leaders in our field. We are publishing ***The Prevention of Sexual Violence: A Practitioner's Sourcebook***, edited by Dr. Keith Kaufman. This cutting edge work is the most comprehensive volume ever published about preventing sexual abuse and focuses our attention on a dimension of our work that has been too often neglected. We are also introducing two new publications for clinicians working with young people who struggle with Autism Spectrum Disorders and also abuse sexually. ***Working with PDD Children and Adolescents who have Sexual Behavior Problems*** by Craig Latham and ***Autism Spectrum and Disorders, Sexual Behaviors, & Therapeutic Intervention*** by Gerry D. Blasingame. Both books bring hope to this challenging problem through appropriate assessments and interventions. Third, we are collaborating with Tom Keating

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to help bring his highly regarded work, **RESPECT** to our field and offering Ken Singer's new book **Evicting the Perpetrator: A Male Survivor's Guide to Recovery from Childhood Sexual Abuse** for male survivors who are working through the long term impact of their abuse. Last, we are offering a collection of emerging practices through **Current Applications**, the second volume edited by Robert Longo and David Prescott that offers the equivalent of a three-day conference in one book.

And if you have not taken the time to check out our new publications and some of our old standards, our 10% discount on all books is still available through March 15th. Just enter the discount code **Launch2010** when you order online or by phone at 1.888.632.7412.

As always, we welcome your feedback. And if you want us to explore a particular issue in an upcoming newsletter, please let us know.

Sincerely,  
Joan Tabachnick and Steven Bengis

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## Where does personal victimization fit in the assessment and treatment of adolescents who have sexually abused?

by David S. Prescott, LICSW

### The Issue

While most people who survive sexual abuse do not go on to cause sexual harm, there are a few who do sexually abuse others. For clinicians working with this population, there are many questions about how to assess and treat victimization issues for adolescents who have sexually abused. Some practitioners have focused on trauma histories only after the adolescent has accepted responsibility for sexual aggression, while other programs attempt to address these histories throughout the course of treatment.

### The Research

Kaufman, Hilliker, and Daleiden (1996) compared adolescents' abuse patterns based on differences in victim, perpetrator, and offense characteristics. In this classic study, Kaufman and his colleagues found that male adolescents who had survived sexual abuse were more likely to sexually abuse younger male victims. The authors concluded that practitioners need knowledge of victimization issues to more clearly understand adolescents who have sexually abused. The authors found that those adolescents who sexually abused both males and females were more likely to use grooming techniques such as: actively gaining the trust of the victim, using bribes and other enticements, using coercion, and actively maintaining the silence of the victim. The authors also noted that many of the normal behaviors (e.g., building relationships) leading up to sexual abuse created challenges for the clinician to fully understand the abuse patterns.

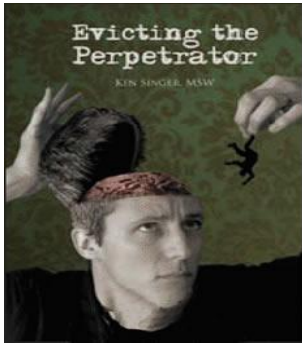
### Implications for Professionals

*Understanding and treating victimization histories has an integral place within the assessment and treatment of sexual abuse by adolescents.* Kaufman and his colleagues demonstrate that an adolescent who has been sexually abused often act out a different pattern of sexually abusive behavior than those who have not been sexually abused. By focusing on the sexual abuse experienced by an abusing youth, we are able to offer more comprehensive and meaningful treatment.

*Adolescents' trauma history can be a driving force in their abusive behavior.* Some programs have emphasized the need to hold young people accountable for their actions. However, when adolescents have grown up experiencing abuse, this may miss the mark. For some young people, abusive environments are the only one's they've ever known. This study's findings suggest that professionals

## NEARI RESOURCES

### Publications from NEARI



Evicting the Perpetrator  
***A Male Survivor's Guide to  
Recovery From Childhood  
Sexual Abuse***  
By Ken Singer

Male survivors of childhood sexual abuse can find no better guide to a healthy recovery than Ken Singer's new book. He identifies the connections between childhood abuse and issues of isolation, out-of-control anger, sexual intimacy, and addictions, and provides struggling survivors with an understanding of trauma and its effects that can help them retake control of their lives. He offers useful advice about why and how to disclose the long-held secret of abuse to loved ones and to constructively confront the abuser by letter and in person. Ken has distilled decades of experience to give real help, real guidance, and the tools needed for real recovery. Survivors, and professionals working with survivors (or with perpetrators who were sexually abused) and their families, will find *Evicting the Perpetrator* a turning point in healing.

can also focus on guiding adolescents in their development so that they can become accountable.

#### Implications for the Field

*Treating adolescents who have sexually abused must incorporate elements of how to live healthier and safer lives.* By doing so, treatment can be more comprehensive and effective than simply reducing risk. For some adolescents, their treatment program may be among the first safe environments they have experienced. A comprehensive treatment plan needs to include teaching skills for remaining safe is important and building the foundation for a more fulfilling life.

#### Reference

- Kaufman, K.L., Hilliker, D.R., & Daleiden, E.L. (1996). Subgroup differences in the modus operandi of adolescent sexual offenders. *Child Maltreatment*, 3, 349-361.

#### Abstract

The current investigation examined the predictability of adolescent sexual offenders' modus operandi based upon differences in victim, perpetrator, and offense characteristics. Questionnaires regarding modus operandi and history of victimization were completed by 179 male adolescent sexual offenders. Subgroups of perpetrators were delineated based upon their history of sexual abuse, as well as the gender, age, and relatedness of offenders' child victims. Results indicated that a history of sexual abuse was related to the selection of male victims and younger victims. Furthermore, subgroups of offenders differed significantly in the strategies they employed to build victims' trust, gain compliance with illicit sexual activity, and maintain victims' silence following the onset of sexual abuse. Implications are discussed for child sexual abuse theory and prevention, as well as for victim and offender treatment.

To print a pdf of this article, click [NEARI NEWS](#).

**"Ken Singer has created a book that is smart, helpful, compassionate, and innovative."**

- Mike Lew, author of *Victims No Longer and Leaping upon the Mountains*.

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About the Author:  
David S. Prescott, LICSW

[David Prescott website](#)

A nationally recognized expert in the field of sexual abuse assessment, treatment, management, and prevention, Mr. Prescott has published numerous articles and authored, edited, and co-edited books on risk assessment, interviewing, and providing residential treatment to youth. He is the President of ATSA and is currently the Clinical Director at the Minnesota Sex Offender Program in Moose Lake, Minnesota.