

Translating the Latest Research to Practice: Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention
American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children
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Title: Problematic Sexual Behaviors in Children: Assessment and Treatment Strategies

Trainers:

Jimmy Widdifield, Jr., LPC (he/him)

Bios:

Jimmy Widdifield, Jr., MA, is the Project Director of the national Training/Technical Assistance (TTA) Grant for Child Abuse Professionals at the National Children's Advocacy Center. Mr. Widdifield is an experienced TTA provider in child maltreatment with specific experience with children and adolescents with problematic (including illegal) sexual behavior, the recipient children, and their families; LGBTQ+ youth; and supporting multidisciplinary teams that investigate child abuse and neglect. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Oklahoma who is trained in several evidence-based treatments that address adversity and trauma experienced by children and adolescents.

Summary:

Children ages 3-12 engage in sexual behaviors that range from normative to problematic and harmful. Professionals often misinterpret normative behaviors in children and often are unsure how to effectively address genuine problematic sexual behaviors. As such, many children with problematic sexual behavior do not receive the types of services that support healthy behavioral functioning and healing within the family. Research suggests that children with problematic sexual behavior are highly responsive to treatment that includes their caregivers and addresses priority needs identified in initial and on-going assessment. This workshop will provide information to help professionals distinguish normative from problematic sexual behavior in children, identify assessment strategies to support treatment planning, and identify research supported treatment elements known to reduce or eliminate problematic sexual behavior in children.

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will learn research-based information to dispel four persistent and adverse myths about children with problematic sexual behaviors.
2. Participants will learn core elements of research-informed clinical assessment of children with problematic sexual behaviors.
3. Participants will learn core elements of research-informed treatments of children with problematic sexual behaviors.

Bibliographic References

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