

Traits & Characteristics

Fact Sheet

(Juvenile Sex Offender = JSO)

- ⇒ Like most crimes, juvenile sex offenses affect a broad range of victims and survivors, which include:
 1. Males and females
 2. Children
 3. Peers and adults
 4. Siblings
 5. Relatives
 6. Acquaintances
 7. Strangers

- ⇒ JSO's are typically 13-17 years old

- ⇒ Most sex offenders have prior relationships with their victims

- ⇒ Approximately 80% of JSO's have a diagnosable clinical disorder, typically related to conduct, substance use or learning disabilities, however, this statistic must be understood in relation to mandatory evaluation that often accompanies interaction with the juvenile justice system

- ⇒ *Modus Operandi* – The predictable pattern of thoughts, feelings and behaviors that occur before, during and after sexual offenses. Some common modus operandi methods of JSOs include:
 - *Grooming behaviors to gain trust* (e.g., gift giving, love and attention, alcohol and drugs)
 - *Bribes and enticement to gain cooperation* (e.g., love and attention, using pornography)
 - *Coercive acts to gain cooperation* (e.g., threats to harm the victim or others, threaten the relationship, alcohol and drugs)
 - *Methods used to maintain silence* (e.g., threats to harm the victim, withdraw benefits)