Predatory Behavior

What is Predatory Behavior?

Individuals who use various forms of manipulation to exploit victims for their own gratification or personal gain. The types of exploitation can include sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional.

Nature and Extent

Discussing predatory behavior against older individuals, sex trafficking and understanding why and how they happen.
It is estimated that five million people are forced into sexual exploitation and globally nine million are estimated to be victims of sexual violence.

(Lee, M. at al 2024; Allan, C et al., 2023)

Victim commonalities

Average age of 22

Homeless

Low-income housing

Difficulties in homes

Single individuals

Under the influence

LGBTQ+ communities

Physical or mental illness

(Allan, C. at al 2023) (Beauregard at al. 2024)

Main uses of control and methods

Main uses: Physical force and drugs

(Allan, C. at al 2023) (Lee, M. at al 2024)

Methods: con approach and surprise

(Beauregard at al. 2024) (Lee, M. at al 2024)

Relationships likely to lead to victimization

Friends, family and romance.

(Allan, C. at al 2023)

Offender Characteristics

Loner, Forensic awareness, Prior Criminal Activities, Opportunistic, Sadistic, Premeditation, Weapon/Restraint use, Stranger, Often Male, Repeat Sexual Fantasies, Most Under the Influence.

(Allan, C. at al 2023) (Beauregard at al. 2024) (Lee, M. at al 2024) (Turner-Moore, at al. 2023)

Main motivations

Robbery, retribution, and sexual desire.

(Beauregard at al. 2024)

Common Locations of Victimization

1. Homes
2. Bus stops
3. Trains
4. Business locations
5. Parking lot
6. Commuting
7. Public areas

(Beauregard at al. 2024) (Lee, M. at al 2024)

Common times of Occurrence

1. Late at night
2. Evenings
3. Early mornings

(Lee, M. at al 2024)

Prevention

1. Proper training on intervention
2. Improved working conditions
3. Employee background checks & home security systems
4. More research on how victimizations happen
5. Making them feel comfortable and safe.
6. Community Awareness

(Allan, C. at al 2023) (Batchelor, Diana 2023) (Lee, M. at al 2024)

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-Disclosing Exploitation-

What is Exploitation?

Exploitation is the process of taking advantage of someone vulnerable through either the use of coercion or deception. (NYSCP, 2021)

What is Disclosing Exploitation?

Disclosing exploitation highlights the warning signs of victimization and also involves discussing or reporting an act of exploitation.
(NYSCP, 2021)

Signs of Exploitation:

1. Educational:
   a. Decline in academic performance, such as sudden grade drops
   b. Lack of interest in activities
   (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2019; Prevent Child Abuse America, 2018)
2. Emotional:
   a. Mental incapability shown through persistent sadness
   b. Signs of severe anxiety
   (Prevent Child Abuse, 2016)
3. Physical:
   a. Unexplained injuries: bruises, cuts, fractures, etc.
   b. Poor hygiene or malnutrition
   c. Unsuitable clothing
   (Tracy, 2018) (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2019; Preventing Child Abuse, 2018)

Exploitation Types:

1. Sexual
2. Physical
3. Emotional
4. Psychological
5. Financial
   (Ealing Council)

Victim Commonalities:

Victims of exploitation tend to have shared childhood experiences with sexual abuse, homelessness, community violence, and/or emotional, sexual, or physical abuse.
(Ealing Council)

How to Disclose Exploitation:

1. Using specific terminology sensitively and appropriately
2. Having awareness of one's tone of voice and body language
3. Creating a safe space for victims to feel comfortable when disclosing
   (Ealing council)

Sexual Exploitation Statistics:

1. In 2024, there were 49.6 million human sex trafficking victims, with 12 million of those being children. (ILO & United Nations, 2023)
2. Research shows an average of 14,500 to 17,500 victims of trafficking in the U.S. alone each year. (ILO & United Nations, 2023)

Common locations of Exploitation:

1. Social media
2. Bars
3. Clubs
4. Shopping centers
5. Private residences, including homes, nursing homes, and hospitals.

(Safe Kids Thrive, 2025)

How to Prevent Exploitation:

1. Youth prevention tips:
   a. Be aware of surroundings
   b. Know the signs of exploitation
   c. Stay in safe areas/environments
   (Roth, 2025)
2. Parents' prevention tips:
   a. Informing children on the topic and how to spot it
   b. Set curfews and screen time on devices
   c. Create plans in the event of disasters
   (Behr, 2024) (Chon, 2025)
3. Prevention tips within schools:
   a. Train staff in trafficking risk factors and indicators
   b. Provide learning programs for students on safety tips
   c. Develop protocols for investigating and responding to suspicions of trafficking
   (SSL, 2025)
4. Community prevention tips:
   a. Create safe environments
   b. Raising awareness
   c. Share hotlines, resources, and information
   (Chon, 2025)

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