The Prevention Project Dunkelfeld (PPD): Proactive Strategies to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Child Pornography Offences

Klaus M. Beier, MD PhD

Institute of Sexology and Sexual Medicine
Charité - University Clinic of Berlin
Child Sexual Abuse: Typology of Offenders

Approx. 40% pedophilic offenders - an erotic preference for prepubescent minors define the sexual arousal pattern

Approx. 60% non-pedophilic offenders, for whom the sexual abuse of the child serves as a surrogate for a sexual relationship with partners of similar age

K.M. Beier: Follow-up study of previously expert-appraised child molesters
Int J Legal Med 1998; 111: 131-141
Sexual Preference Structure

• Fate and not choice!

• Preferences for gender, (developmental) age of the „partner“ and desired practices become manifest during puberty and remain stable

• It is not changeable and an expression of a fixed structure
Child Sexual Abuse: Recidivism Rates

Pedophilic offenders: 50 – 80 %

Non-pedophilic offenders: 10 – 25 %

K.M. Beier: Follow-up study of previously expert-appraised child molesters
Int J Legal Med 1998; 111: 131-141
Sexual Preference, Child Sexual Abuse, and Detection Status

Dunkelfeld: cases not officially registered; Hellfeld: officially known cases
Primary Prevention

Because pedophilic inclination perseveres during lifetime, clinically relevant distress is more likely to be expected than in the surrogate offender type.

The prevalence of pedophilia is in Germany – according to a population-based study – at least 1%

Prevention Projekt Dunkelfeld (PPD) started 2005 in Berlin

PPD: Supporting Institutions

- CHARITÉ CAMPUS MITTE
- Volkswagen Stiftung
- Hänsel & Gretel
- Scholz & Friends
- Agenda
- Scholz & Friends Hamburg
- Bundesministerium der Justiz
- Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend
PPD: Campaign Image

- **Non**-medical
- **Non**-judgemental
- **Non**-threatening
PPD: Campaign Features

– Empathic

– Authentic

– Professional
lieben sie kinder mehr als ihnen lieb ist?
Construction of the Claim

• This means: do you love children more than you want to?

In German the claim implies a double meaning: both – the offender and the child – are afraid of sexual abuse

Translation for the english website [www.dont-offend.org](http://www.dont-offend.org)

„Do you like children in ways you shouldn’t“
Promotion by Sponsorship (Media-value ca. 100,000 €)

- Billboards at 2,000 locations in Berlin for at least 4 weeks

Bus-stop

Column in the city
Approx. 80 sponsored broadcasting of the TV-Spot (repeated at primetime)
Campaign Claim & Delivered Message

„You are not guilty because of your sexual desire, but you are responsible for your sexual behavior!“
(Campaign 2005)

„Do not offend. Not even online!“
(Campaign 2009)
The Use of Google Adwords for the German “Prevention Project Dunkelfeld” (2012)

The Idea:
Guide potential users of child abusive images to the therapeutic offer of the PPD by using typical search keywords.

How it works:
By entering specific keywords the user get presented one of the ads mentioned down

- Preteen porn
- Child pussy
- Kids porn
- Sex with children
- Children having sex
- Preteen rape

More than 300.000 Ad Impressions and more than 6.500 clicks in one month
Project Design

- Media Campaign
- Telephone Hotline / Screening
- Clinical (Sexological) Interview
- Psychometric Assessment
- Examining for intake / exclusion criteria
- Treatment Program
- Post test & One-year Follow-up(s)
Sample Size PPD*

- 1884 Respondents of Media Campaign
- 779 Baseline Assessments
- 399 Individuals fulfilling inclusion criteria

*October 2013
Geographical Origin of Participants

48% of the participants travelled more than 100 km!
Berlin Approach of Primary Prevention: Principles of Treatment Program

• Combination of cognitive-behavioral, sexological and pharmacological options

• A change of the pedophile preference is not possible, but control of the impulses is

• Focus lies on self-motivated behavior control. Goal is complete abstinence of child sexual abuse and child pornography offences
Evaluation revealed that the PPD

- reduces risk factors for child sexual abuse
- prevents sexual offending against minors and reduces the number of contact offences
- reduces frequency and severity of child pornography offences
PPD – International Aims

1. Pedophilia is a part of human sexuality and we can assume, that it is to be found in every culture in every country.

2. Child pornography is a topic of international concern because of the worldwide web and the accessibility in nearly every country.

3. All over the world a huge dunkelfeld can be assumed.
German Criminal Code

• There is no mandatory child abuse reporting law in Germany.

• Therapist-client confidentiality is guaranteed unless there is evidence of an imminent risk of a child sexual abuse occurring, associated with the risk of homicide.

• The PPD is accepted by the public and being used by self-motivated pedophiles.
Countries with Mandatory Report Laws

- could at least to focus on potential or real users of child pornography in the Dunkelfeld for preventive purposes

- The use of child abusive images is an indicator for a pedophilic inclination and therefore the user is an important target for prevention

- The PPD shows that it is possible to reach pedophiles from the community and to encourage these men to change their habit of using child pornography
The Prevention Project Dunkelfeld (PPD): Proactive Strategies to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Child Pornography Offences

Klaus M. Beier, MD PhD

Institute of Sexology and Sexual Medicine
Charité - University Clinic of Berlin