

**Common Assumptions About Sexual Abuse,
Sexual Abusers, and Victims of Sexual Abuse
(not necessarily supported by research)**

- Sexual abuse causes severe psychopathology and/or emotional problems for the victim.
- Victims always have a negative perception of the experience.
- Sexual victimization leads to long term effects of response inhibited sexual dysfunction difficulty developing close interpersonal relationships.
- The more physical the abuse and the closer the offenders relationship to the victim are correlated to increased long-term negative consequences.
- Families of abusers suffer intensely as a result of the abuse and/or it's discovery.
- Most perpetrators of abuse are victims themselves.
- Sex offenders are more emotionally disturbed than most people.
- There are regional and cultural predispositions to sexual abuse.
- Parents of sexual abusers always know about the abusive behavior.
- Sexual abuse against males is rare.
- Sexual abuse with same sexed victims is rare.
- Incest abusers do not present risk to non-family members.
- Non-familial offenders do not present risk to family members.
- Sexual abusers prefer one "type" of victim.
- More intensive or extensive abuse requires more intensive or extensive therapy.
- People can change.
- People cannot change.