Most sex researchers believe that only a small province within the realm of atypical sexuality needs to be considered diseased.

“Paraphilia” is the psychiatric term for a problematic sexual desire or behavior. Social attitudes strongly color what is considered sexually normal and what is considered abnormal.

- Three criteria for a sexual desire to be a paraphilia:
  - is distress associated with the desire or behavior
  - is the desire or behavior required for sexual arousal
  - is there a victim
Paraphilias (cont’d)

• The DSM-IV of the American Psychiatric Association lists seven specific paraphilias—fetishism, transvestism, exhibitionism, voyeurism, masochism, sadism, and pedophilia—as well as unspecified “other conditions.”
Paraphilias (cont’d)

• Fetishism refers to sexual arousal by inanimate objects or body parts. Common objects of fetishism include feet, shoes, lingerie, jockstraps, leather or fur.

Cross-dressing
  – Repeatedly or continually wearing clothes of the other sex.
  – Both men and women cross dress and they do so for a variety of reasons.
  – For example, transvestic fetishism, or simply transvestism, is a term applied to heterosexual men who are sexually aroused by wearing women’s clothing.
• Cross-dressing
  – Practical reasons
    • Passing
    • Employment
  – Doing Drag
    • Entertainment
  – Transgendered cross dressing
    • Part of gender identity
  – Transvestic Fetishism
    • Sexually arousing
    • Internalizing womenness
    • Autogynephilia

• Sadomasochism (S/M) involves a sadist who is sexually fixated on inflicting pain, and a masochist who is sexually fixated on receiving pain.
  – Donatien, Marquis de Sade (1740–1814)
    • Aristocrat, libertine, writer of violent porn
  – Sadism and Masochism
    • Terms coined by von Kraft Ebbing
Paraphilias (cont’d)

– Physical pain may be inflicted in the form of spanking, paddling, whipping, piercing, cutting, burning, nipple clamping, or “cock-and-ball torture.”
– The emphasis may be on placing the masochist in a humiliating position by means of bondage restraints or verbal abuse.
  • Boot licking, verbalizing enslavement
– Dominance and submission are the key erotic elements. BDSM is the acronym given to the entire collection of traits: bondage, dominance, and sadomasochism.
  • Safety first, safe words, cuddling affection after

Autoerotic Asphyxiation
– A form of inflicting pain on self
– Increases intensity of orgasm
– Typical use some noose around neck that loosens after passing out
– Often connected with BDSM accessories
– Dangerous
  • Michael Hutchence 1997
15.4 The prevalence of paraphilias among men being evaluated clinically

15.5 Atypical fantasies and behaviors in the general male population (Part 2)
• Exhibitionists, or “flashers,” are men who expose their genitals to women in public or semi-public places. An exhibitionist is sexually aroused by a woman’s reaction of shock, fear, or amusement and sees these reactions as a reciprocation of his sexual interest, a condition termed “cognitive distortion.” Exhibitionism is very common and accounts for over one-third of all convictions for sex crimes in the United States and other countries.

• Obscene telephone calling is similar to exhibitionism in that a man calls an unknown woman and makes sexual suggestions or utters obscenities. Telephone callers are generally shy men who lack social skills in interactions with women and who have feelings of inadequacy.

• Voyeurism is one of the most common of all paraphilias. Voyeurs, or “peeping Toms,” are men who are erotically focused on watching women who are undressing, naked, or engaged in sexual behavior.
Paraphilias (cont’d)

- A pedophile is a person, usually a man, whose sexual interest in prepubescent children exceeds his sexual interest in physically mature adults. Pedophilia generally begins at adolescence and persists over the lifetime. Adults who are primarily attracted to postpubescent teenagers are ephebophiles.

- Recent research suggests that pedophiles are rather unremarkable men with few distinguishing characteristics except for a relatively low level of intellectual function.

Paraphilias (cont’d)

- Pedophiles may be homosexual or heterosexual and may have a preference for either female or male children. Heterosexual pedophiles outnumber homosexual pedophiles by 2 to 1 or 3 to 1.

**Table 15.1** Percentage of male undergraduate college students (surveyed anonymously) who acknowledged sexual interest in children in various ways

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of interest</th>
<th>Percentage of students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Experienced sexual attraction to some small children</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had sexual fantasies involving children</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masturbated to fantasies involving children</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Might have sex with a child if they could avoid detection</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Briere & Runte, 1989.*
Paraphilias (cont'd)

- A sexual offender against children, or child molester, is any adult (mostly male, but female sexual offenders do exist) who has had sexual contact with a prepubescent child whether the child participated willingly or unwillingly. Most child molestation convictions are for nonpenetrative acts, such as touching a child’s genitals or buttocks.

- Child molesters may be classified as intrafamilial (having sexual interactions with their own children or stepchildren) or as extrafamilial (having sexual interactions with children outside their immediate family).

Paraphilias (cont'd)

- A frotteur, or masher, is a man who is sexually fixated on having physical contact with another person, without their consent or knowledge, usually in a public place.
  - Some orgasm on the spot under clothes
- Bestiality is defined as sexual contact between humans and animals. This contact is termed “zoophilia” when the person’s engagement in it is lifelong and to the exclusion of human sexual contacts. Kinsey’s data:
  - 8% all men; 50% raised on farms (17% orgasm)
- Necrophilia, a sexual fixation on corpses, is a rare paraphilia. A necrophiliac may be aroused by the nonresistance of the dead partner.
  - Lack of resistance is stimulating to necrophiliacs
Paraphilias (cont’d)

• Sexual violence can be paraphilic if the violence itself is sexually arousing. Some of the most notorious serial killers are described as paraphilic sadists.

• Gary Ridgway
  – Green River Killer
  – 48 women in Seattle
  – Strangled during sex

Theories of Paraphilia

• A tendency to develop a paraphilia may be inherited. In one study, 18.5% of paraphiliacs reported first-degree relatives who were also paraphiliacs.
  – Confounded with same environmental factors
• Paraphilias may be triggered by organic disorders such as abnormal hormone levels, neurological disease, chromosomal abnormalities, seizure disorders, dyslexia, or mental retardation. Paraphilias share some common features with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD).
• Paraphilias may develop from aspects of a courtship disorder that occurs when a man seeks a sex partner.
  – Looking for a mate: voyeurism
  – Initial nontactile interactions: exhibitionism
  – Tactile interactions: frotteurism
  – Genital sex: paraphilic rape

• Paraphilias may be caused by the blockage of normal avenues of sexual expression.
  – Punished in youth, socially timid

• Paraphilias may develop from a victim–perpetrator cycle. People who have been victims of abusive behavior during childhood have an increased likelihood of engaging in that behavior themselves.

• Despite the aforementioned theories, the cause or causes of paraphilias remain unknown.
• Most paraphiliacs do not seek treatment on their own.

• Behavior therapy attempts to reverse pathological learning processes by such techniques as aversion therapy, covert sensitization, orgasmic reconditioning, and positive and negative reinforcement.

• Social skills training may overcome the blockage of normal sexual expression. This type of training includes cognitive distortion correction and relapse prevention programs.

• Drug treatments are administered to reduce recidivism. Depo-Provera, Lupron, and androgen receptor antagonists are prescribed either to lower testosterone levels or to block the action of testosterone. Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) are used in the treatment of depression and to reduce or eliminate paraphilic desires and behaviors.

• Surgical castration (removal of the testicles) to remove a man’s main source of androgens is a treatment of last resort.
15.7 Drugs used to treat sex offenders