



THE ISSUE

COMMON FACTS CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

WHAT IS CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE?

Child sexual abuse (CSA) is any interaction between a child and an adult (or another child) in which the child is used for the sexual stimulation of the perpetrator, or an observer. Child sexual abuse can include both physical and non-physical activity. Frequently abusers use manipulation and fear tactics to keep a child engaged. A child is not capable of consenting to any form of sexual activity. When a perpetrator engages with a child in this way they are committing a crime that has devastating effects on the victim for years to come.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT STATISTICS?

Child sexual abuse is likely the most prevalent health problem children face with the most serious array of consequences that extend well into adulthood for victims and that impact society as a whole. Children of all ages, races, ethnicities, and economic backgrounds are vulnerable to sexual abuse and assault. Stats differ from study to study, but these are the most common based on reported cases in the U.S.:

- It is estimated that 1 in 10 children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday.
- As many as 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused before they turn 18.
- The average age for reported cases is 9 years old.
- It is estimated that 90% of CSA cases are never reported.
- About 90% of CSA cases were committed by someone the victim knew
- It is estimated there are over 42 MILLION adult survivors of CSA in America.

WHO ARE THE PERPETRATORS?

There is a misconception that perpetrators have a certain profile, but people who molest children come from all races, backgrounds and demographics. Abusers can be found in churches, schools, families, youth sports leagues, recreation centers, and any place where children gather. Most often abusers are members of a victim's circle of trust.

- Less than 10% are strangers to the victim
- About 50% are family members or people the family trusts.
- As many as 40% of the children who are sexually abused are abused by older, or more powerful children.

Journey to Heal Ministries

www.journeytohealministries.org | 910-231-4846 | PO Box 1051 Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480



IMPACT & PREVENTION

WHAT ARE THE COMMON EFFECTS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE?

- emotional and mental health problems, PTSD symptoms
- anxiety symptoms, depression, suicide attempts
- physical aggression, non-compliance, delinquency
- sexual behavior problems, promiscuity
- academic and developmental issues, significant drop in grades
- use of alcohol, substance abuse/dependence
- an aversion to or fear of certain people in or outside the immediate family
- eating disorders
- self-harm

WHAT TO DO IF A CHILD TELLS YOU THEY ARE BEING ABUSED:

It is important that you remain calm, listen to them carefully, and let them know you believe them. The next step is to contact child protective services, the police, or both. If in doubt, you can also contact the National Child Sexual Abuse Helpline at **1-866-FOR-LIGHT (367-5444)**.

HOW CAN I HELP PREVENT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE?

The information provided here gives an overview of the basic facts and common effects concerning child sexual abuse. We encourage you to visit the websites we provide here to learn more about this epidemic in America and how to prevent it.

- The End1in10 Campaign at www.journeytohealministries.org/end1in10
- Darkness to Light website at www.d2l.org.
- The Mamma Bear Effect at www.themamabeareffect.org

We believe that awareness and education lead to prevention. While we may not be able to eradicate child sexual abuse in America, through awareness and education we can dramatically reduce the number of children being violated by this crime every year. Together we can #END1in10.

Sources: Darkness to Light at d2l.org, naasca.org, and the Rape And Incest National Network at RAINN.org

Journey to Heal Ministries

www.journeytohealministries.org | 910-231-4846 | PO Box 1051 Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480